pearl pink

Meca Tanaka

pp 3

TOKYOPOP

pearl pink

Volume 3
by Meca Tanaka

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pearl pink

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Contents

Step 10 5
Step 11 37
Step 12 67
Step 13 97
Step 14 127
Step 15 159
Mecasite Comics Version 189

Step10
pearl pink

pearl pink CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS

KANJI INUI (11TH GRADE)

His family owns Dog Run, a small boutique talent agency. He's a genius at finding new faces and a whiz with domestic chores, from cooking to doing makeup.

KANTA

Tamako's pet and best friend.

TAMAKO MOMONO (8TH GRADE)

Secret child of popular idol/actress Shinju Momono. She's currently living with the Inu family and has a crush of galactic proportions on Kanji. Limber and athletic as a monkey.

SHINJU MOMONO

Tamako's mother and a famous idol/actress. Her real first name is Mako. Star of the mega-hit TV drama "Idol Pi-

RAIZO HISHIKAWA

Member of the boy band Rain. Scouted by Kanji and hence has pledged his life to pleasing the man who gave him success.

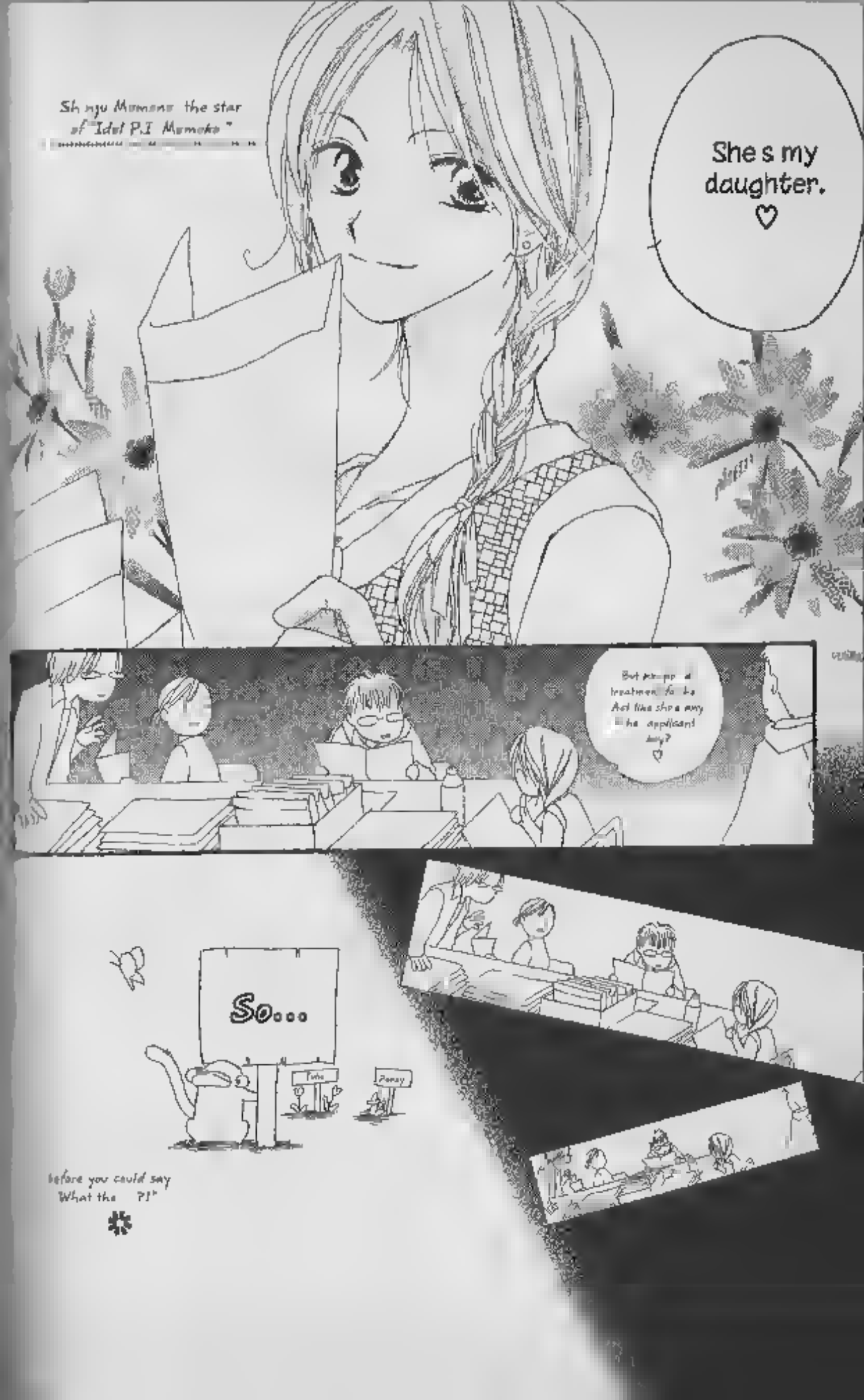
KINICHI INUI

Chief owner of the tiny Dog Run talent agency, in addition to being Kanji's father. A wacky, but nice, middle-aged guy.

Catch the beginning of the story in *Pearl Pink* Volumes 1 & 2, currently on sale from TOKYOPOP!

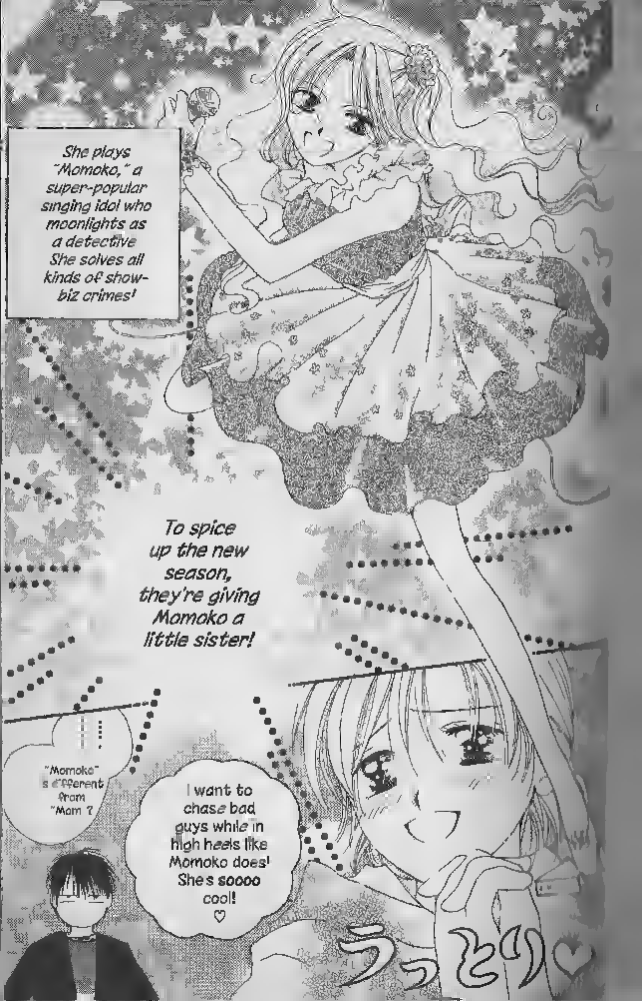
Meeting Room B
"Idol P.I Momoko" Audition Review
Hm?
"Ido P.I Momoko Studio Headquarters @ Satten TV
TAMAKO MOMONO
153cm
39kg
Momono?
Oh, that girl?
Enchanted Momoko-kun Yo u as k m y as thay ay.
Nice to meet you
Momoko kun. How do you feel about "smart"?
Okay let's get right to business
HUH?!
I just got a call from the Police Committee ever
IDOL

← Cont on pg 38


Shinju Mumeno the star of "Idol P.I Mumeko"
She's my daughter. ♡
But arrange a treatment for her. Act like she's any of the applicant's any?
So...
Twin
Penny
before you could say "What the P.I"

At long last, Tamako Shinju stopped being a secret.
The "Forever-22 Girl" is a Mother!
Teenage Daughter Uncovered
"Idol Momoko" is Mama P.I.!!
Momono Jr. auditioning for a slot on "Idol P.I."
SHINJU MOMON
Yes, that's right.
I only kept her a secret because of my job. It was a contract thingy.
I'm sorry!
Momono-san! Can you shed light on the rumor that your daughter is auditioning to play your little sister?

It's true!
It's not up to me, though. We live apart, and she does as she pleases.
For all intents and purposes, she's a normal girl, a regular citizen, and if you stalkerazzi go after her, this Idol P.I. will arrest you! ♡
Grrr!
Ben!
PLLL~
Kan Inu the Apparent to the Dog Run Talent Agency
Dad! Answer the phone for real!
Right!
"Idol P.I. Momoko" is a T.V. detective show. My mom's the star.
We can hole up here, practice for the audition, and let Shinau-san take the media heat.
Thank god we're on spring break
It won't be long before the paparazzi finds out Tamako's staying with us.


She plays "Momoko," a super-popular singing idol who moonlights as a detective. She solves all kinds of show-biz crimes!
To spice up the new season, they're giving Momoko a little sister!
"Momoko" is different from "Mom"?
I want to chase bad guys while in high heels like Momoko does! She's soooo cool! ♡
うっとり♡

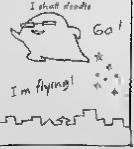
WOO-HOO!
Naturally! I did your makeup! Success assured!
I've already passed the written exam!
My desire to audition is what caused this media circus...
...so I'm going to have to nail it!
Office BIF Studio
Kaiza Hishikawa member of Ruin
Opt one!
Boy Band Training Seminar!
Lol
H same
Yukiyo
Nope. Wrong, wrong, wrong.
Sing from your tummy, not your throat. Use the diaphragm!
?
?
Here!

8TH VOLUME

Hello everyone!
Tamaki here
Boy, time sure does go fast doesn't it?

It feels like I've only just started but now all of a sudden it's me to start the countdown to my 10th published manga volume. Of course I couldn't have done it without the help and support of all my fans. Thank you so much!!

Pearl Pink's now on its 8TH volume and the "Audition Arc" of the storyline is starting to gather steam. You wouldn't think it but this part of the story necessitated a lot more little details I had to invent more about the society Tamaki and Kenji live in. I was having a pretty hard time sorting it out but thanks to some help from a bunch of friends and colleagues I somehow managed to put it all together. I even got to tour a television studio as research. I'll write more about it at the end of this volume. Those of you who are curious feel free to skip to the end and read all about it. And in the remaining space as always I shall doodle.



Hey
...I...I don't think I can do it!
Coach! I have to confess...
Tamako-kun, haw an earth can you say that?!
Big shock! So, how's it going?
Hmm
Good! Tamako-kun's singing is getting better. Her voice is really cute.
You have talent, kid! Mountains of it!
Coach!
What the hell are they doing?
Hmm
I think they're just fooling around
They get along so well

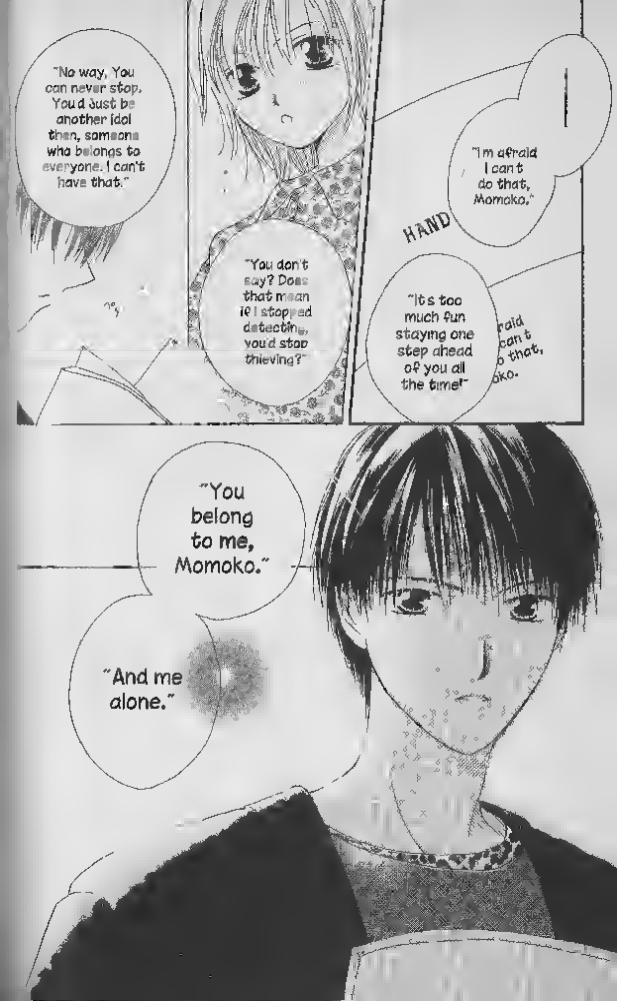
That's really all Rain can help her with, though. We're not actors.
She changes expressions every five seconds. Watching her is hilarious!
Coach, I'll try my hardest! I swear!
You're finally getting it, Tamako-kun!
Excellent! Here is your reward!
Huh?
Ack.

Huh?! Whaa —?!
That won't happen.
Uh?
No?
Hey! Whoa, whoa, whoa!! I didn't ask you to teach her that!!
What?
Jealous?
Tee-hee! Naughty Kanji! Management and talent can never fall in love! ♡
What do you mean by that, Tamako-chan?
Hm?
Think about it. I was ready to go, but Kan-chan showed no interest.
The only reason I'm doing this is to become a "good woman" for Kan-chan.
When I found out...

...that succeeding would help make part of Kan-chan's dream come true...
...I knew it would be enough to make me happy, too.
Finally...
At long last, I can do something for him.

What's this?
One of the old "Idol P.I." scripts we had lying around the office.
You should familiarize yourself with the format.
Idol P.I. Momoko
Episode 10
Battle Momoko vs. Handsome
Sit.
I'm Thief Handsome You're Momoko.
I didn't know you could act, Kan-chan.
I can't.
But anybody's better than no one at all.
Skip the action scenes. We need to run some dialogue.

"I...um...I didn't come here to ent"--huh? Ent...enter...
Kan-chan, what's this word say? I can't read it.
FLAT READING
Sorry I'm so stupid
"I didn't come here to entertain you
Hmm, let's do this scene. Page 40, Momoko's just arrived at the site of Handsome's crime.
"Ah, there you are, Momoko. I knew you'd come. It wouldn't be any fun without you."
Umm
IDOL MINI EXPLANA
Wait!
Oh! I've seen this episode.
So I...
Whoa, hold it!!
How come you can do those Momoko impressions and not this?
Oh that easy
I just memorized what I saw on the videos.
Talent is talent.
She can at least listen well.
flap
Hitcha
"Put on these handcuffs, and keep your mouth shut if you know what's good for you, Handsome!"


"No way. You can never stop. You'd just be another idol then, someone who belongs to everyone. I can't have that."
"You don't say? Does that mean if I stopped detecting, you'd stop thieving?"
"I'm afraid I can't do that, Momoko."
HAND
"It's too much fun staying one step ahead of you all the time!"
"You belong to me, Momoko."
"And me alone."

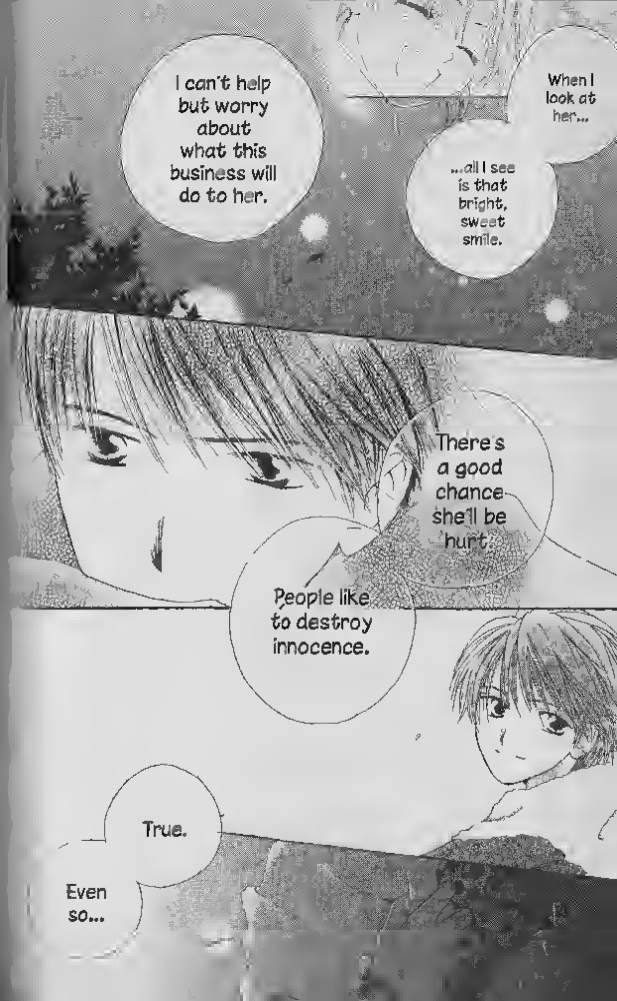
カルッヨコール!!
Holy crap!!
"I already belong to everyone, Handsome."
"I can't be just one person's Momoko. . ."
"...even if I wanted to."
DEEP BREATHS DEEP BREATHS
Talk about cheesy lines
GOTTA CALM DOWN! CALM DOWN CALM!
I'm fine.

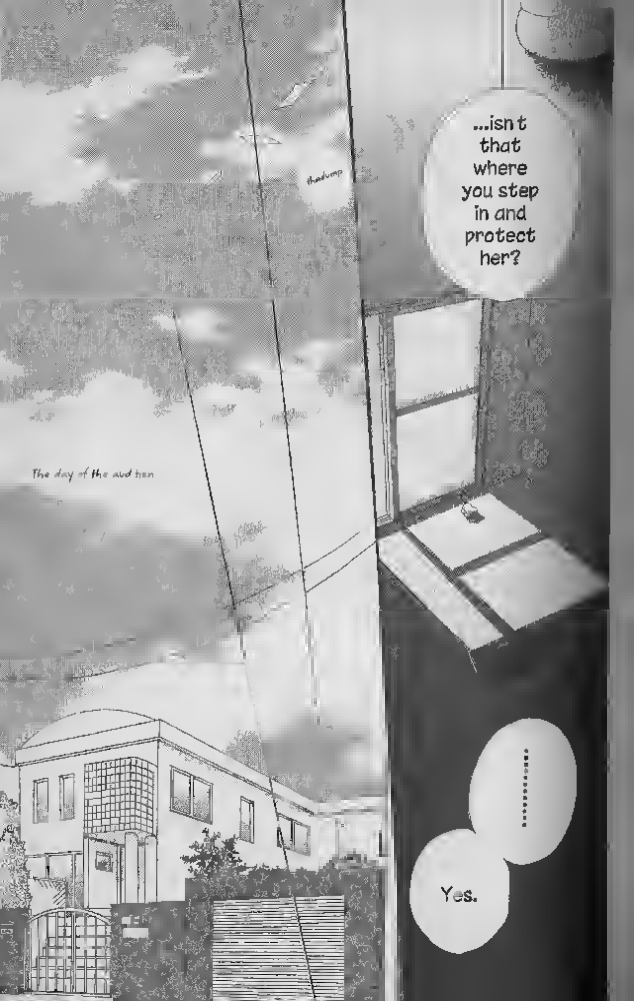
"...isn't allowed."
"Falling in love..."

Aaah...
ACHOO!
Get back in there and warm up again!!
The way she looks at me...
i guess...
Phew
Crap! You gotta be freezing, stand around a hot bo like t

Hmm?
It looks like she's gone outside.
Heya, Kanji! ♡
What's up?
...you can't really stop your heart from feeling...
...Momoko.
Thanks for helping out with Tamako's training.
So, how's she doing?
Be honest.
Well, since you asked...
Okay I'm having fun. It's good for me to have a refresher on the basics, too ^^

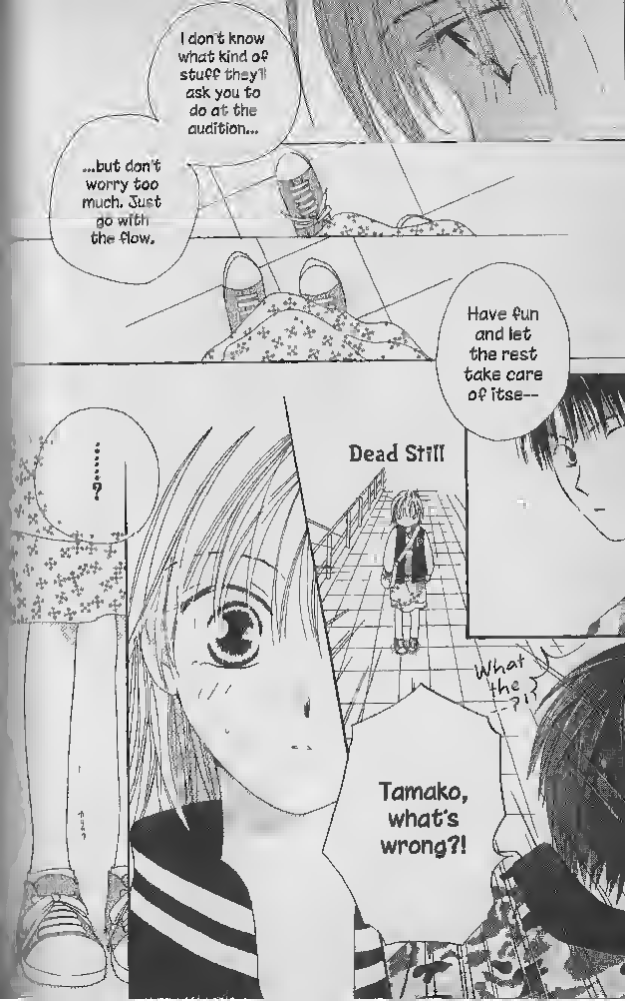
She's still in her novice phase. It's a thin layer of polish applied very quickly. It's not the best test of her talent
Ouch.
...I'd still say she's only a 5.
...giving her the best handicap...
Yeah.
They're talking about me!!
Turn around!
This isn't for your ears!
Hey, Kanbi?
The way you looked at Tamako-chan earlier... have you given up on her?
why?
Huh?

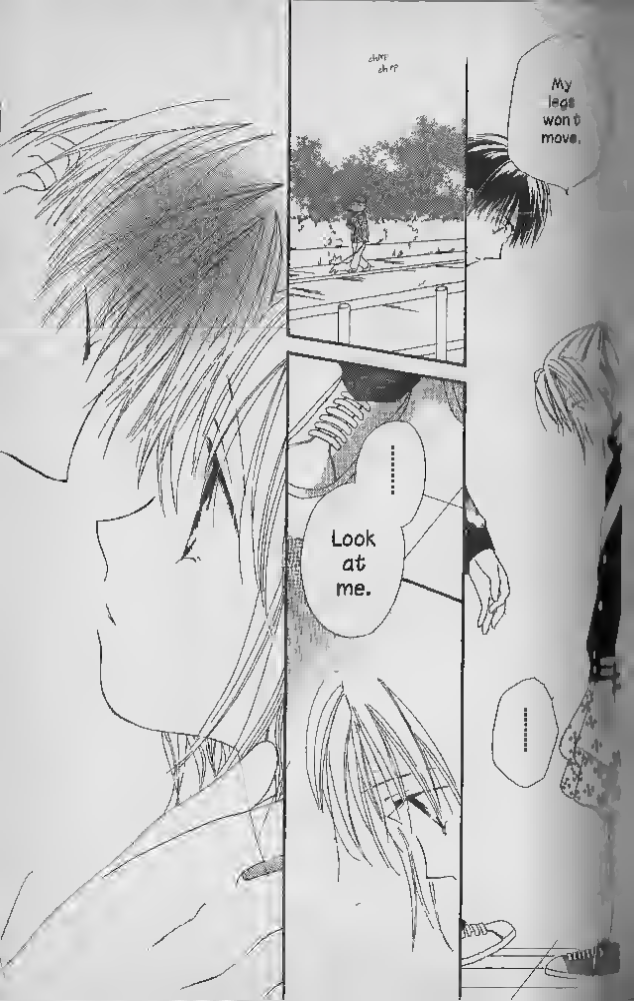

I can't help but worry about what this business will do to her.
When I look at her...
...all I see is that bright, sweet smile.
There's a good chance she'll be hurt.
People like to destroy innocence.
True.
Even so...


...isn't that where you step in and protect her?
thudump
The day of the audition
.....
Yes.

Here I go!!
Tomako, my wallet.
Handkerchief? Check!
A spare
Paperwork? Check!
Hair and makeup? Check!
Waaah!
clap clap clap
Oh, Uncle Kinichi?
Is Mom going to be, y'know, okay?
Don't worry, kiddo, she'll be fine. ♡
The whole media hullabaloo actually boosted the ratings, so everything's all hunky-dory.
I noticed you were really careful to stay out of her way. Very mature of you!
Wee hee!
Saw that coming!

Some people won't take her threat seriously, though.
So, be careful, okay?
?
I will!
I'll walk you to the station.
Worried?
She's clueless.
Utterly.
Kan-chan's staying home.
It's out of our hands.
You sure I'm not too plain, Kan-chan? You didn't do much with my hair or makeup.
You'll be fine The producers want to see what kind of base materials they have to work with
Besides, go too far with a fancy image, and you risk having the wrong one for the show.
Oh
I see.
.....

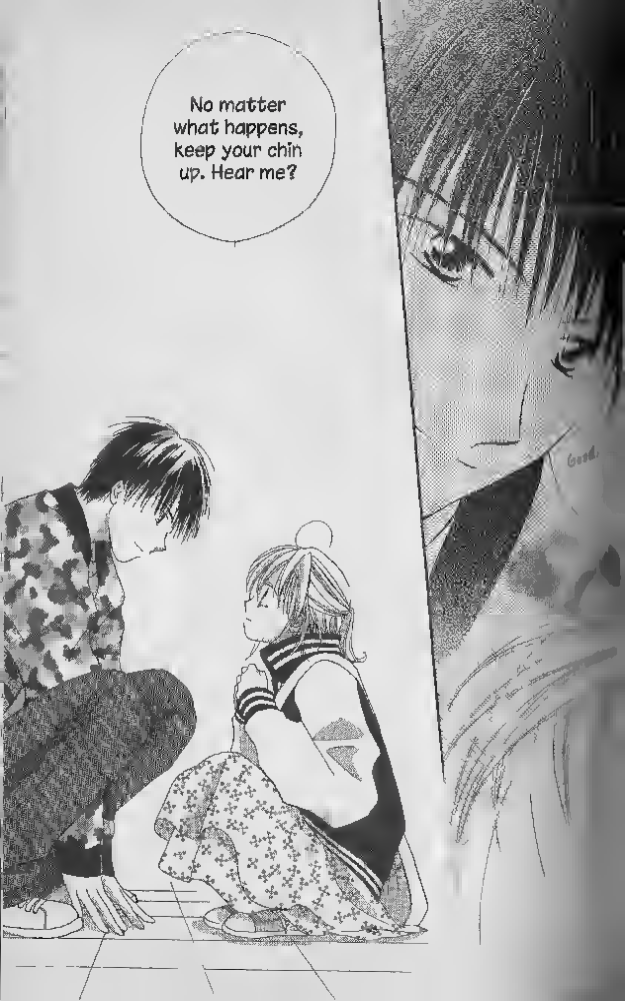

I don't know what kind of stuff they'll ask you to do at the audition...
...but don't worry too much. Just go with the flow.
Have fun and let the rest take care of itse--
Dead Still
What the--?!
Tamako, what's wrong?!
.....?

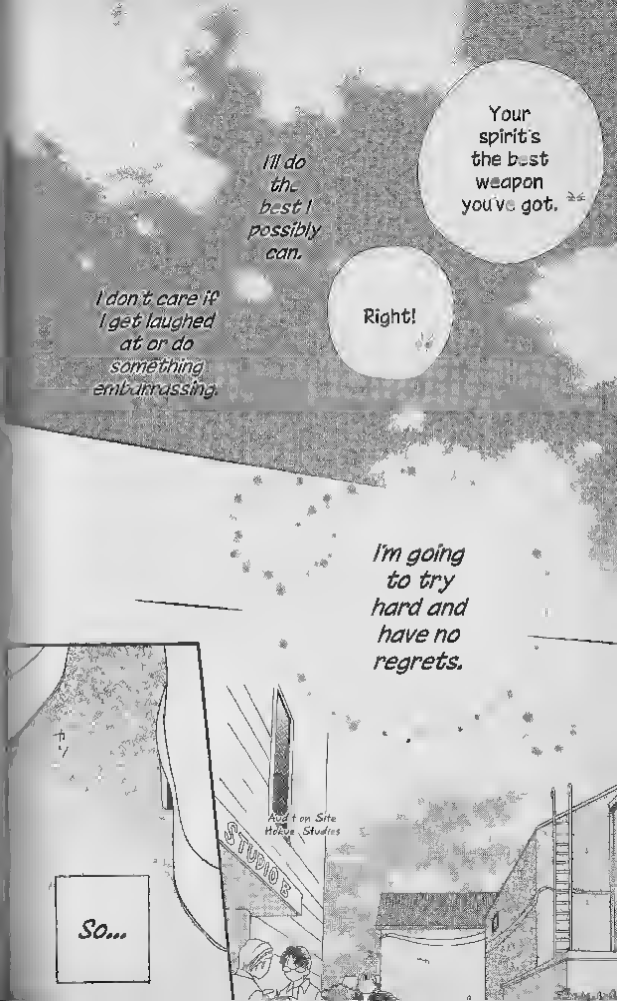

My legs won't move.
Look at me.

I'm suffering déjà vu!
O-ow!
Fix that attitude!
Tamako?
O-okay!

No matter what happens, keep your chin up. Hear me?

One... two... go!
Oow!
I'm suffering déjà vu!
Fix that attitude!
Tamako?
O-okay!

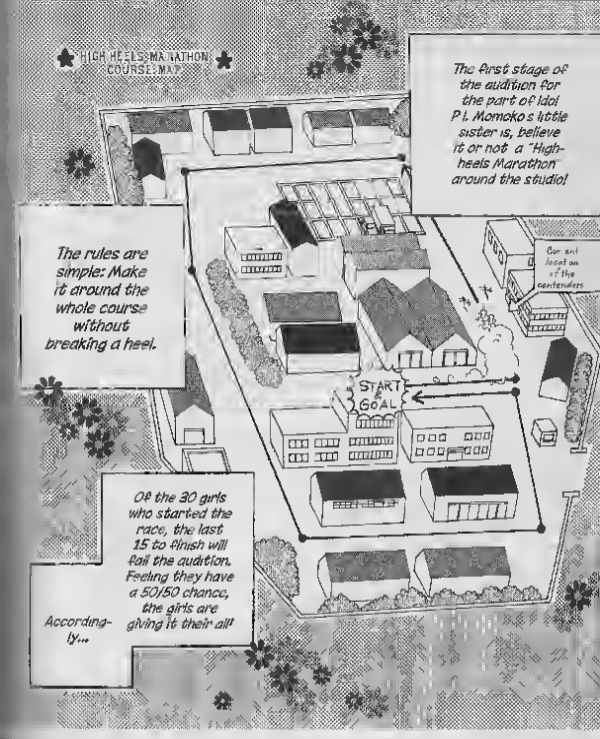

No matter what happens, keep your chin up. Hear me?
Good.


Your spirit's the best weapon you've got.
I'll do the best I possibly can.
Right!
I don't care if I get laughed at or do something embarrassing.
I'm going to try hard and have no regrets.
Audition Site Hokuo Studios
STUDIO
So...

...it's been 30 minutes since I had the courage to come here.
Now, for some weird reason...
"Excuse me"
All right, is everybody ready?
...I am standing at the starting line of an obstacle course... wearing a dress and high heels.
START
Remember, the course is basically one lap around the entire studio complex.
If you get lost, ask one of the staff members stationed around the course.
?
?
Only the top fifteen finishers will move on to the next stage of the audition.

Ready...!
What the heck does this have to do with acting?!
I'm home.
What on Earth?!
hope it's not gonna have a lump...

Pearl pink
Step11


HIGH HEELS MARATHON COURSE MAP
The first stage of the audition for the part of Idol P.I. Momoko's little sister is, believe it or not a "High-heels Marathon" around the studio!
The rules are simple: Make it around the whole course without breaking a heel.
Car exit locat on of the contenders
START GOAL
Of the 30 girls who started the race, the last 15 to finish will fail the audition. Feeling they have a 50/50 chance, the girls are giving it their all!
Accordingly...

A lot of girls go to office s want to ea me
What a all these?
Inspector Honda?
Momoko san!
Photos of husband
IDOL PI
MOMOKO
2

1 in pg 69

...let's rewind time a little and wait for things to calm down.
PLAYBACK 10 minutes ago...
Idol P.I Momoko "Little Sister Audition" Registration / Waiting Room
And your name is?
Um...
Tamako Momono, ma'am!
I'm with Dog Run...
I had a feeling...
...something like this might happen.

Is that her?
Shinju Momono's daughter?
Has she done any acting before?
No, she's a total newbie.
No way!
Is this some kind of joke?
Just coz she's Shinju Momono's daughter, it doesn't make her better than us!
Hmph
Shrimp
Jumako has good ears so she's hearing every word.
Rrrrgh!
God, would you just shut up already?

But I didn't say anything.
Quit whispering behind the girl's back. It's stupid, and it's childish.
If you've got something to say, say it to her face.
Psst
Hey, is that...?
Hmph
Her skin's so white! So pretty!
She's gorgeous!
Sigh

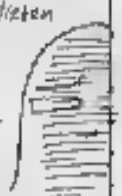
That's Serika Kurotani.
Haven't seen her at an audition for a couple of years
It's because she's too old to play young anymore.
Hey, now that I think about it, some of these girls are familiar.
I guess I've seen them on TV or in ads or something
Quite a few
Coming!
All right, everyone! Come this way!
Oh!
Wait! That means the only amateur here is...me?!

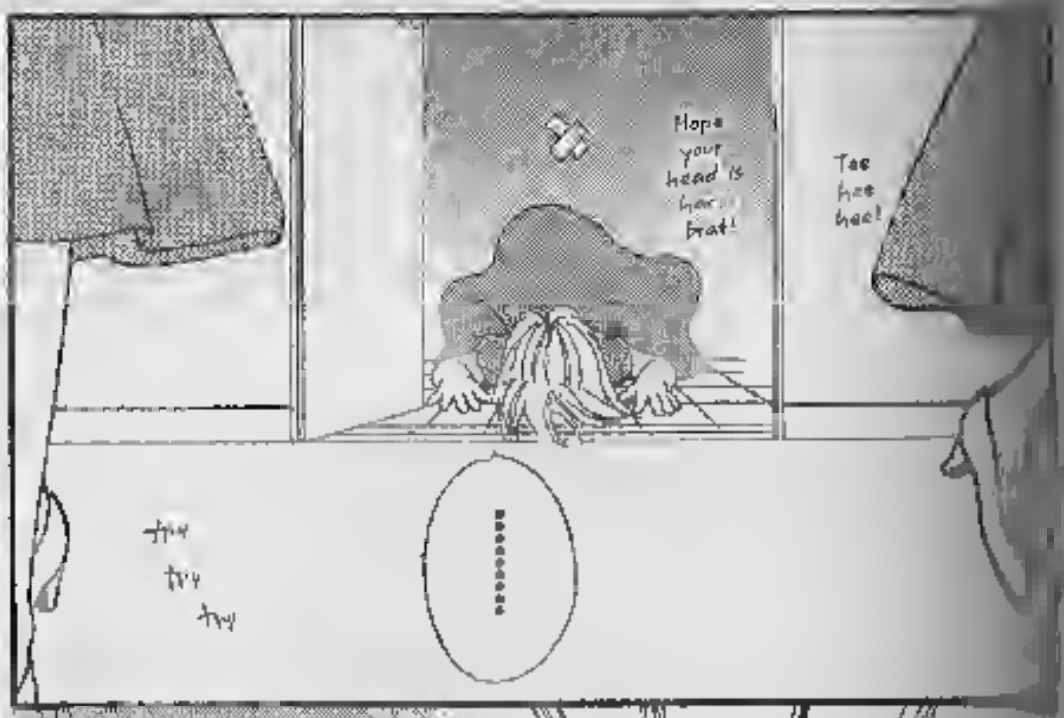
DRAMA CD

Not only did I get to do a Dramatic CD for my previous manga Omukae Desu but now they're asking me to do one for Pearl Pink too!

Right now as I'm writing these words I have yet to decide on the story which characters will be involved or well anything at all!!

Well I do know that I'd like to do something different from what I've already written in the manga. In fact if possible I'd really really love to do something with the bonus room strip. Idol ♪ Momoka ♪ It's already set up as something fun and a little edgy so I want to see how far I can push things. Hah hah. Anyone who is curious please feel free to pick up the CD and have a listen.





I won't let them beat me!

That's what happened. But now...

...getting back to the present...
Because! Don't take off your heels, or you're disqualified!
God, this sucks! Why do we have to run in these clothes?!
But nobody said anything about a physical exam!!
"Physical"?
This is right up my alley!!
Whoa!
She's fast!
There!
Now I'm alone and in front!

?!
Hi! Thanks for your help earlier.
Huh?!
Um, maybe not.
clk
clk
clk
What the heck?! Don't talk to me!
Well, I didn't have a chance to thank you before.
AHEAD
HURDLES
Thank me?
You really are stupid, you know that?

I wasn't being nice to you. I wanted them to attack you straight on, like I'm gonna do
I mean, using nepotism to weasel your way into this audition? That's low, girl! Low!
Hey... um...
What ?!
I said don't talk to me!
Obstacle #1 Rivalries
.....
21
25

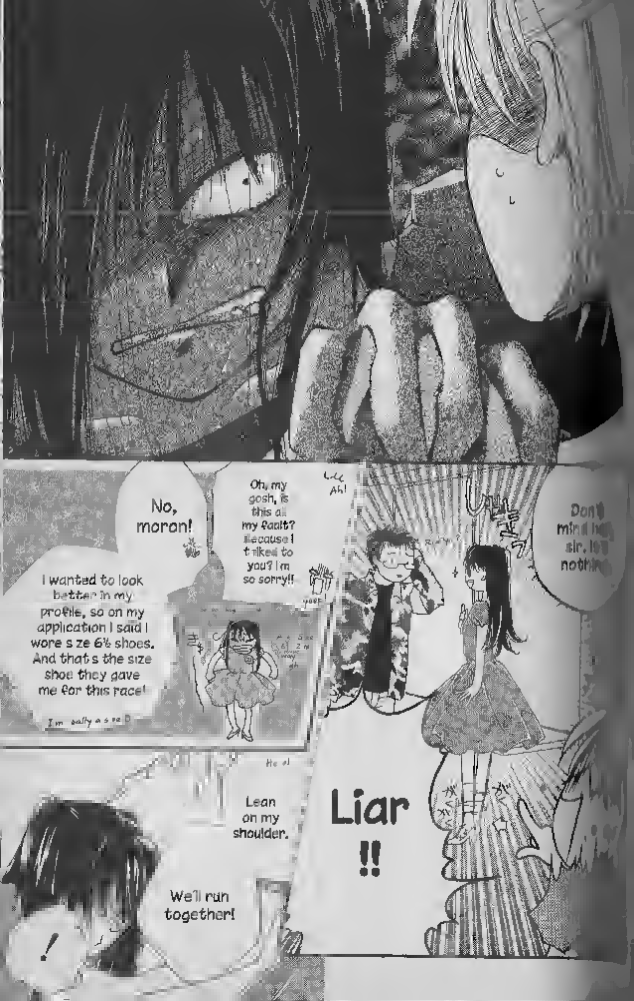
What's "nepotism" mean?
Yes, ma'am!
Under-stand?!
WHAT NEPOT MEAN
Answering out of ch got on
Wow! They can talk and jump hurdles at the same t me!

Took you long enough!!
I am not !!
!
Huh?
Good morning!
Ack!
Oh, Shinsu-chan. Gmorning.
How's the audition going?
Dunno. It just got started.

Director
Ugh
By the way, is the script done yet?
Ne That Jerk Mashima hasn't even started! He says he can't write the "little sister" until he knows what kind of clay he has to work with!
I see.
You'll be helping us out with the final decision, though, right?
Yep!

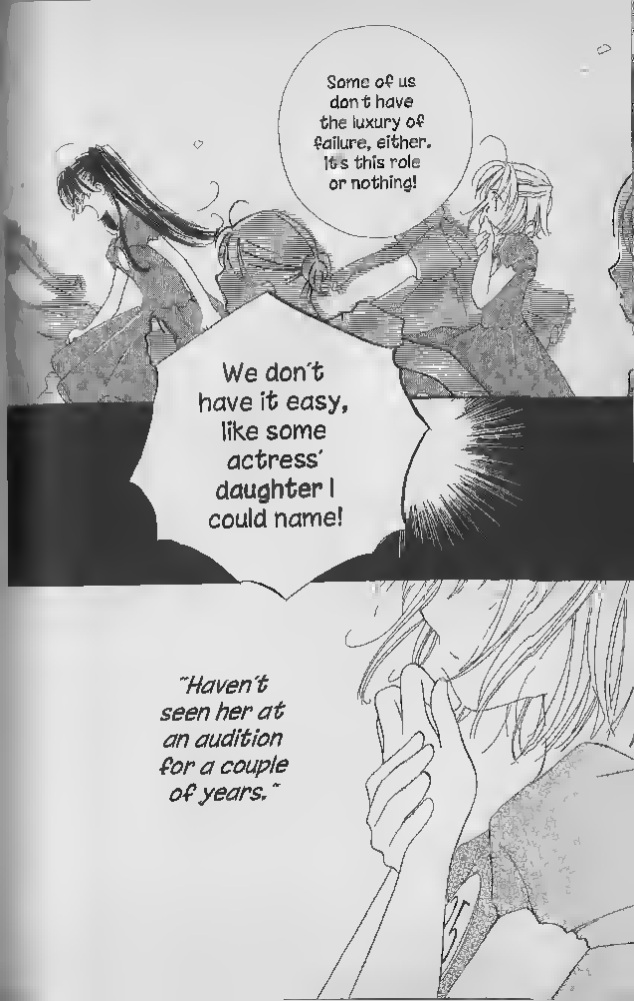
Well, then, I guess that means the girl we pick...
...is entirely in the screen-writer's hands.

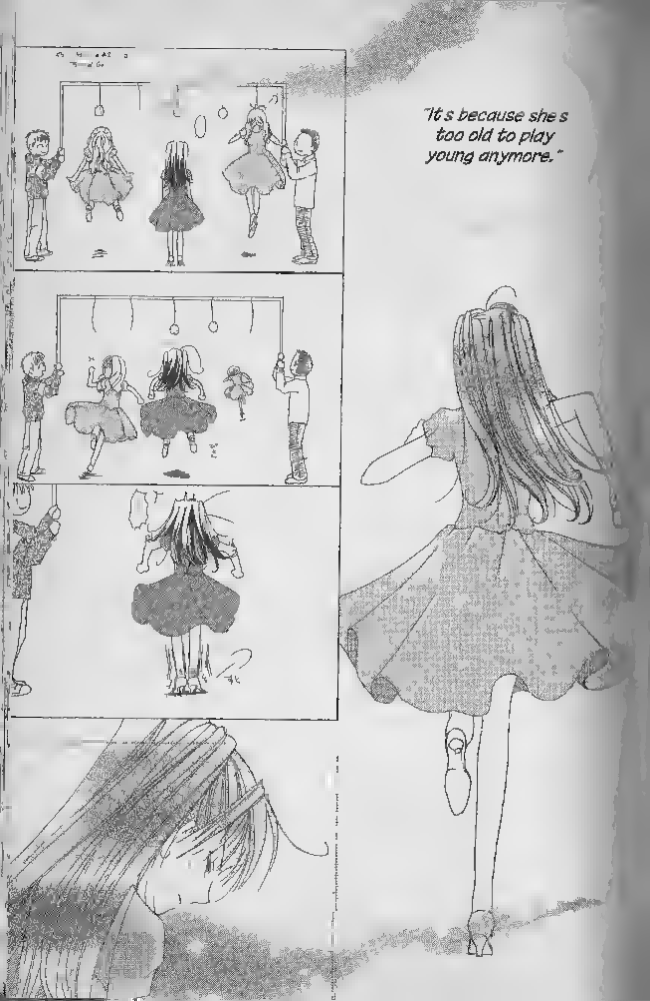
Are you two okay?
Ah
Yes, sir.
.....?
.....
Blo-o?
OH MY GOSH!!!
GRAB
Mr. Referee! Shes-
STAFF


No, moron!
I wanted to look better in my profile, so on my application I said I wore size 6½ shoes. And that's the size shoe they gave me for this race!
I'm really sorry!!
Oh, my gosh, is this all my fault? Because I talked to you? I'm so sorry!!
Don't mind it, sir, it's nothing.
Liar !!
Lean on my shoulder.
We'll run together!

"Run together" ...?
Ha! And then what?

We hold hands and skip merrily across the finish line like we're best friends?
Pull another one! We're enemies, girl! Everyone here is trying to shove everyone else down and trample them for that part!


Some of us don't have the luxury of failure, either. It's this role or nothing!
We don't have it easy, like some actress' daughter I could name!
"Haven't seen her at an audition for a couple of years."

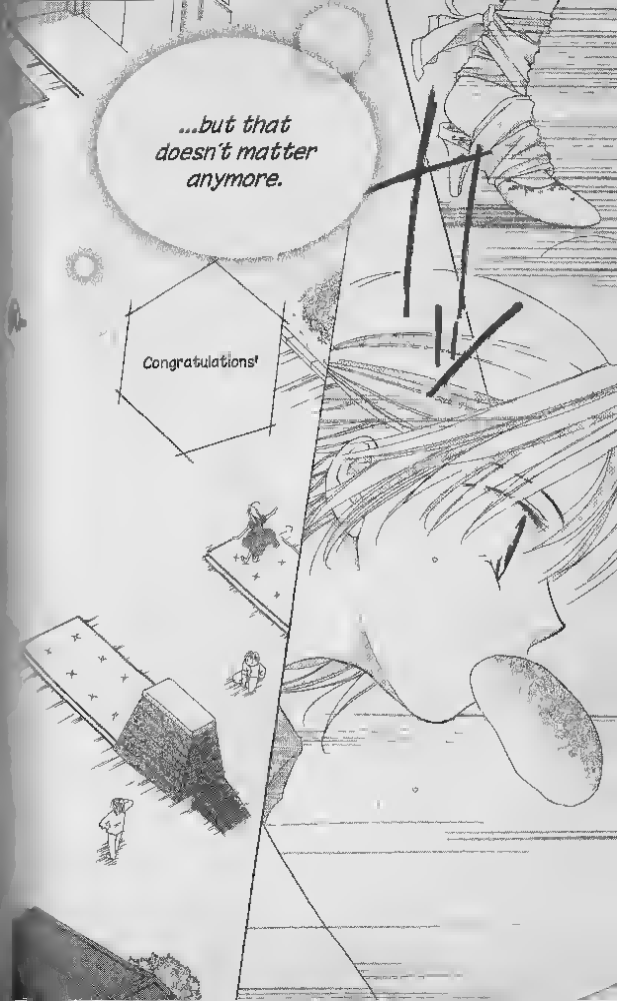

"It's because she's too old to play young anymore."

No, sir. I'm fine!
WISH
Should we lower the bar a little?
Are you okay?
DRIVE SLOWLY

?!
Did you throw something at me?!
What the heck?!
We're trading shoes.
I'm a size 8, too.
!
25
...
Don't you get it?!
I don't want your pity--

Hey!
Snap
It's not pity! The way you're limping around is driving me nuts!!
What are you doing?!
Get over it. This won't hurt you.
Those shoes are your ... Why ... take them...

...and get your butt in gear?
You'll regret this.
I'm so stupid!
Oh—yeah she's regretting it already
All you've done is make it even easier to kick your butt!
Whoa!
Ohhh...
Maybe I'm too softhearted...


...but that doesn't matter anymore.
Congratulations!

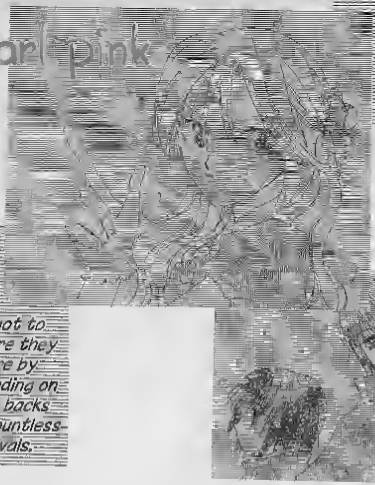
Nah. Remember, Shinju-san has to run on set about three km a day wearing heels.
God, is this one crazy audition or what?
Here you go, #21. You came in 14th.
Here comes the last qualifier.
Only one more person...
What number?
Looks like #6...
BATTERY COMIN'
FINISH
Once you've crossed the finish line, you'll get a card with your ranking!
If you're bowing out, be sure to let one of the Judges know.

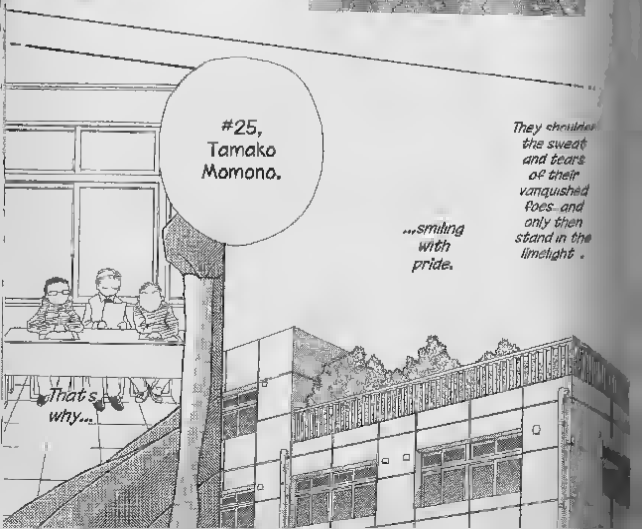
FiN
Huh?!
Holy crap!!
#25 is catching up...!!
25
6

Whoa...
15th place goes to #25!
I'm not giving up. Not ever!
EMERGENCY TENT
Ow ow ow ow!!

Well, excuse me for being an amateur!!
Totally unprofes-sional!
Unbelievable. Not only did you dive across the finish line, but you did it face-first.
Too much.
You're not one to talk, Miss
95
Gawd
Come see me later on, and I'll cover up that out for you with some foundation
I'm sure you're too useless to do it
Huh?
I don't like owing anyone anything.
Don't make it more than it is.
I need to keep going no matter how hard this business is..

...so that I can always be close to someone very important to me.
Um Thanks ..
—Corolla-chan?
Sounds like a car name
It's Serika!! Like the Toyota "Celica"!
Way more high class than a measly Corolla
I hope Tamako's doing all right.
At some point turned "my important person"
Um Kenji-kun? Is that supposed to be cleaning?
Surprisingly spaced out


All the brightly glittering people on TV...
...got to where they are by standing on the backs of countless rivals.


#25, Tamako Momono.
They shoulder the sweat and tears of their vanquished foes...and only then stand in the limelight.
...smiling with pride.
That's why...

...they can shine so strongly.
I've prepared to sing Rain's self-titled single, "Rain," complete with a dance routine.
25
Step12
pearl pink

Thank god the second part of the audition was normal
Singing and dancing
Things could go all crazy again for round 3, though.
By the way...
• Lunch Time •
11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Listen this is all a plan to lure out that Handsome
It's a total fake out
Totally Embarrassed
Um
Lunch
You can't belong to one person Everyone loves you including me!
But I don't mind!
You're everybody's Momoko san!
Please say it isn't so!
Momoko san are you serious?!
IDOL RI
MOMOKO
3

—Cont on pg 99

...why are you still hanging around me, freak?!
Go sit somewhere else, will you?!
You're the only one who talks to me, Serika-chan. The other girls won't even look at me.
They all ignore me
Humph!
Tee hee!
Whatever! At least wipe your face. You've got rice all over it!
Eating lunch together
Are you always this weird?
Like you picked a boy band's song to sing. Guys have a different vocal register, so it makes no sense for a girl to try that kind of tune.
Short playback
--Rain's self-titled single "Rain" complete with a dance routine
Everyone watches
At five times the normal speed!
The judges saw it
Was that wrong?
I had to do something unusual to make up for my lack of experience.
Kanji's idea
Yeesh. Your whole agency's whacko!

Excuse me, I'm really sorry to bother you during your lunch...
...but my daughter practically begged me to get your autograph.
Oh, really?
That's totally cool. Thank you!
What's your daughter's name?
Mari Yagi.
Yeah!
That's it!
I see her in commercials all the time.
Facial cleansers and stuff
She's Mari... um... Mari...?
Umm...
What's her name again?
She's so pretty! Haven't I seen her before?!
Whoa!
She's short!
25

Hello, Serika.
This is so weird! Did you make a friend?
Heck no!!
Whoa...
It's like she exists in her own personal atmosphere.
Wow!
Oh, you must be Tamako Momono!
Your super-speed rendition of "Rain" was hilarious!
She's special.

Dieting
Oink
Yes I'm on a diet I was super sad to find out that since my debut as a manga artist I'd managed to pack on an extra 10 12 pounds And I wasn't really skinny to beg a w th o ther
I am quite quite sure that wo k stress and bad habits are the main cause of the extra me now hanging around my m ddle as I've been chang ng my eating bit by bit And happy surprise three months after seriously getting started I lost eight pounds!
Wow! Awesome!
But I'm not giv ng up! I'm going to try to lose a couple more pounds Here are a few tricks I've learned that help me stick to my diet
Don't take the whole "I'm on a diet!" attitude too far
Don't start any habit you don't think you'll be able to continue forever
Keep your stomach and intestines in good health, it's very important
And that's about it
To all you other d ete s out there let's keep up the good work!
OINK OINK
Oopsie! You have rice on your cheek.
Are you seducing a girl?!
Is she happy embarrassed or something else altogether?
Too hee
Oh, yeah, by the way, Mari...
Belong to the same agency
...correct me if I'm wrong, but before you moved to our agency...

...you were a part of Dog Run, right?
What?
NO TRESSPASSING
Only studio employees and registered guests allowed beyond this point
Oh, you're helping out with the audition? Alrighty.
There's a parking lot exclusively for scooters in the back.

Having fun?
This is still against my better judgment...
Kanji kun, one hour ago
Thanks, mister.
In fact, I order you to. Go Shoo
If you're that worried about her, why don't you go watch?
mess
Letting Tamako spot me would probably just trip her up...
so I'll sneak in the back.
It's been about three years since then...

Idol P.I. Momoko 'Little Sister' Audition Registration / Waiting Room
You're 13?
Almost 14.
I moved to my current agency when I entered high school...
...but I was with Dog Run all through junior high.
......
Karina, too much makeup.
Gosh, she's just too gorgeous. She's everything Kan-chan wants in a girl and then some!
At least...I think so.
Hey, wait! That means...
...Kan-chan let someone this awesome slip through his fingers?
His talent agent must've gone mental
Hello, girls! Sorry to keep you waiting.
We have the results of the second stage of the audition. If you hear your name, you passed

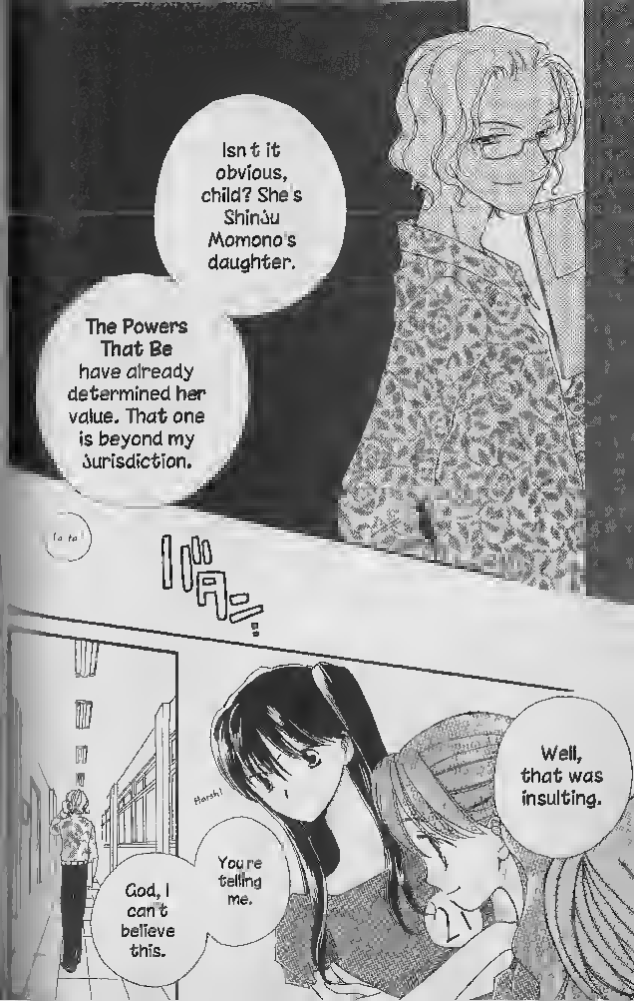
Iwao Mashima, screenwriter for "Idol P.I.", has a few quick questions for you.
When you're called, please come forward.
My pleasure ♡
All right, ladies, I'll go in order. #3!
Perhaps, but he's a genius screenwriter. He's written hits in every genre.
He talks like a g
He's young
Is #3 not here?
Here, sir!
...Oh!
Girls who don't pay attention are useless to us. You fail.
Next!

Holy cow, he's harsh!
#10
Who will he leave standing...?
30
#21.
#18
What made you decide to try out for this part?
Y'know I always wanted to, like, try acting in a real show
Come back when you learn to speak properly
Next!
Here, sir.
Wait... what??
21

I've had a more nuanced taste of life since. I guess that's why I look like I do now.
I was very pampered back then, sir.
Serika
From the afternoon program "Tales of the Plains"
You're that utterly adorable child actress from five or six years ago! With the cute dimples and the sweet smile?!
What happened, honey? You look 180 degrees different!
However, if you like my old face better, I can change back to it!
Ha!
What, and lose that brassy, queen-wasp look you have now? You must be joking
Serika Kurotani, please go next door. You've made the cut.

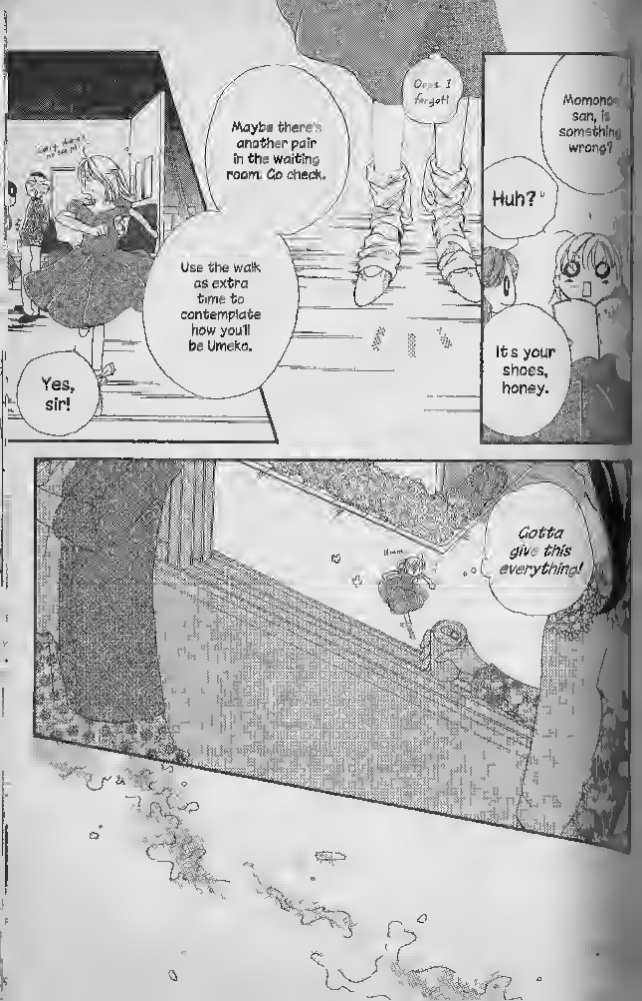
Gracious, if it isn't Miss Purity herself, Mari Yagi. Hello, dear.
You signed up at the same agency as Serika-chan, right?
3
Here.
#30!
Next!
Yes!
25
Nice fangs, girl! Excellent! You pass!
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
Unqualified
Skipped right over you, didn't he?
Oh, shoot, I almost forgot.
Not on your life!
You're definitely the favored child over there. Why don't you throw her a bone?

#25 Tamako Momono! Move over to Studio #3 as well.
She doesn't have to go through an interview?!
How is that fair?!


Isn't it obvious, child? She's Shinju Momono's daughter.
The Powers That Be have already determined her value. That one is beyond my jurisdiction.
ta ta
Well, that was insulting.
Pardi
You're telling me.
God, I can't believe this.

Mashima-san advanced that girl without even giving her a single look!
Everyone else, thank you for your time and patience--
Sorry
Um, okay then. The three girls who passed, please go to Studio #3
25
pant
pant
pant
I know it's some kind of cheap handout...

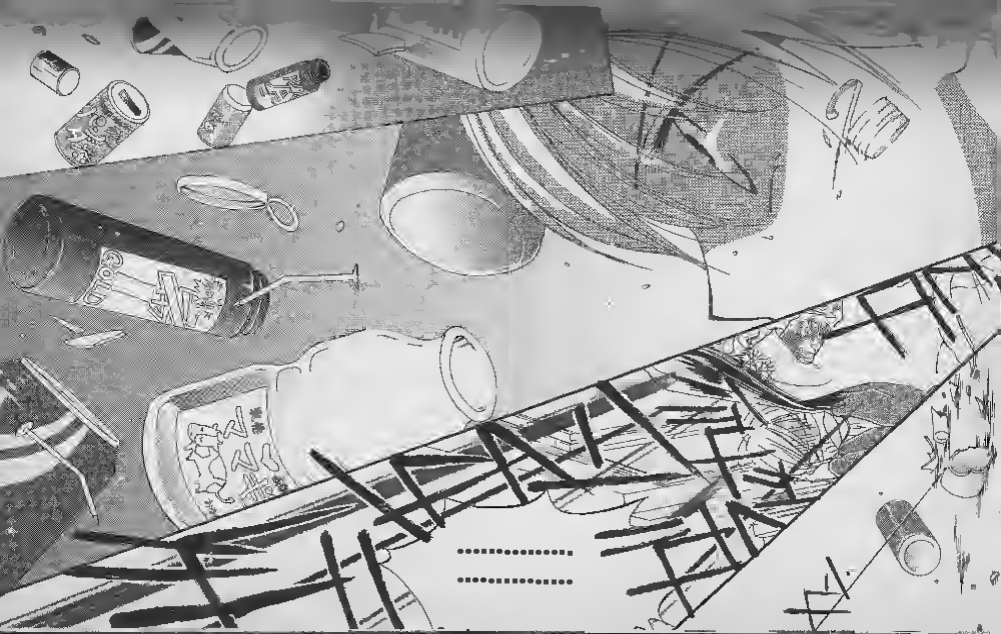
...But I'll take any chance I can get.
And...
This set here is meant to be the office Momako's musical agents use.
This is where she's going to meet Umeko for the first time.
Okay, let me explain how the final portion of the audition is going to work.
You're each going to do about five minutes of the scene in character. How you play her is entirely up to you.
Yes, sir.
.....
No.3


Momonoi-san, is something wrong?
Huh?
It's your shoes, honey.
Oops. I forgot!
Maybe there's another pair in the waiting room. Go check.
Use the walk as extra time to contemplate how you'll be Umeko.
Yes, sir!
Gotta give this everything!

25
Oh, I'm sorry.
My hand slipped
Huh?
CLANG
Not that it makes any difference, though, right? You don't have to look good to get this part
It's not like you haven't already gotten the job!

...!
Am I wrong?
What are you staring at me like that for?!
?!
.....
Skank!

Get lost, loser!!



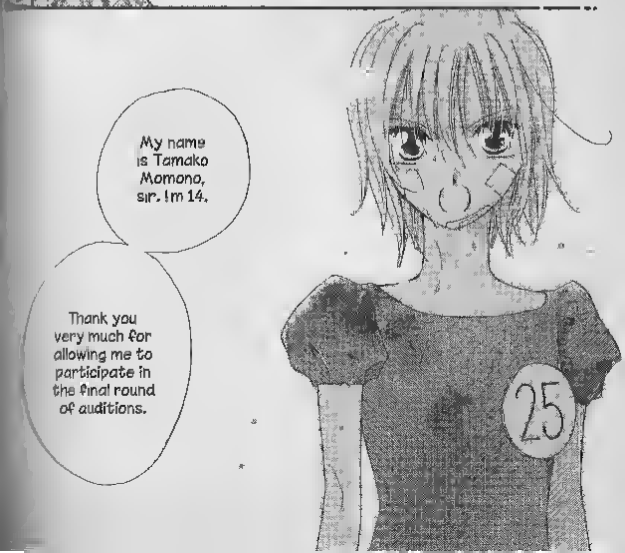
Ow.
...God.

.....
You moron! You don't have time for petty squabbles!
You'd better not be hurt.
.....
Damnit I was hoping to sneak by
Huh?! Ah... um...Dad, er, wanted me to check your progress.
You're here?
Your face is cut!!
I'm so sorry!!
Kan-chan...
...I'm not worth the effort.
You shouldn't go this far to protect me.
I'm the one who should be sorry.

Then get your act together and make yourself worth it!!
Make yourself into someone I can brag about!!

I understand.
This is my opportunity.

#25.
Whoa!
I should do laundry
Yes, it's quite windy
No, not today


My name is Tamako Momono, sir. I'm 14.
Thank you very much for allowing me to participate in the final round of auditions.
25

No, sir. They threw soda at me, along with the cans, soda bottles, and the rest of the trash.
I washed in a fountain.
I was all sticky.
Did they now?
You're a mess.
You're acting well, dear. Why is that?
Did some sore loser throw water in your face?
Did you catch the perpetrators?
No, sir. I let them go.
Really? Whatever for?
Because there's someone else I need to pick a fight with first.
Myself.
Nn-hn.

I see. Okay, girl, you pass. Come inside.
Let's wrap up this silly game, shall we?
I won't just be "ShinJu's daughter," but my own special person!
MEANWHILE
WAAHH!!
Oh my God!! He's bleeding!!
This isn't a setup for a scene right?!

Step13
Pearl Pink

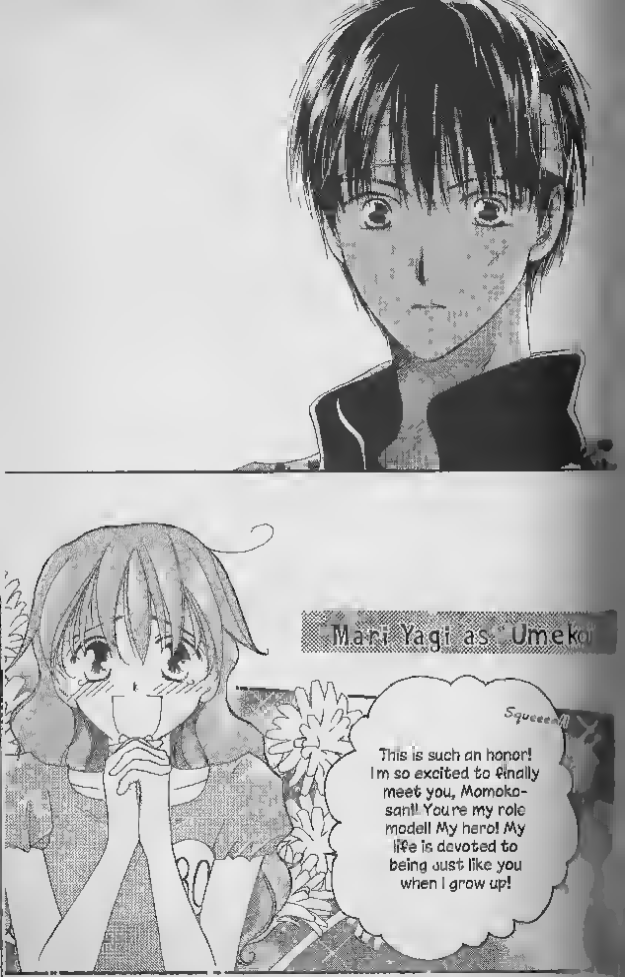
iDOL P.I.
MOMOKO
<Heroine>
Momoko Sakurada
(played by Shinju Momona)
The ever-cheerful eternally 22-years-old Momoko Sakurada is not only a hugely popular musical idol she's also a top notch detective!
The final stage of the "Idol P.I. Momoko Younger Sister Audition" will have our three hopefuls act in a scene with Momoko herself!
They have five minutes each to introduce their version of the younger sister Umeko and make their case for the role!
Kantaro Quick Explanation
No.3
One... two...
The big day
This coming Sunday
Momoko's decision to accept marriage applications makes the planned media splash
Lead article
iDOL PI.
MOMOKO
4

Have you decided who's going first?
1
2
3
Third... I'm going last.
I have to come up with my Umeko interpretation all by myself, don't I?
You see, what I'm really looking for...
No need to panic, dear. Nobody's expecting you to be a good actress.
Is it just me, or did this just get a lot harder?! Do I have what it takes?!
What do I do?!
Aaah!

...is character. I want someone who's easy for me to write.
I also want...

...someone with guts enough to go toe-to-toe with our star.
Ooh.
Mother and daughter on set together!

だぁ
Squeeeal!
Oh, my gosh, it's Momoko!!!
Excuse me...
Is the audition over yet?
Well, it makes it easier that she's treating me as a stranger.
All right, girls, let's get going. Whoever pulled #1, you're up!
Mari Yagi is just about to start.


Mari Yagi as Umeko
Squeeee!!
This is such an honor! I'm so excited to finally meet you, Momoka-san!! You're my role model! My hero! My life is devoted to being just like you when I grow up!

ACKKKK!
Good golly, this is the bestest, most wonderful day of my life! I m--
BEEP
I'm Umeko! I'm your new sidekick! I'll be helping you with all your detective work from now on!
Quite the little bitch.
You okay?
Are you here to show your talent?
Huh?
I'm sure I'll be able to catch Thief Handsome for you! I just know I can!
slip
...Hrm. I see.
DWIP

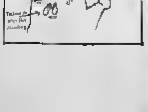
BOXING

This year I've had more and more chances to go watch K-1 and boxing matches. It's great.

I've always loved watching matches designed purely for entertainment like pro wrestling and stuff, but getting to see everything that goes on in a serious fight is something else entirely. K-1 is a lot more showbiz-y than boxing, but with boxing you get to watch all these gorgeously muscled men. Aaaah.

One of the best things about getting to see a live match is being so close to the boxers. You can see them breathe and feel every last ounce of tension in the air. Even though I've only ever seen the boxers at a smaller local hall, it's still great.

Recommending this to all the young lady readers out there might not be the best idea, but well I will anyway. Love boxing at least. You can really get caught up in the action.



The "baggage" angle.
A klutzy character who keeps screwing up could add some spice to the story.
That kind of character won't compete with the heroine for screen time, either.
Okay, time!
You've gotten a lot better.
What do you think you're doing, spacing out like that?
You need to be ready for when your turn comes, doofus!

I don't have the time to be a spectator
I need to figure out how I'm going to play Umeko
My pleasure
Firstly, please allow me to apologize. I know we've only just met, but I feel it is my duty to inform you that you are sagging!
Umeko

Don't pick on me, you moron!
And to clarify, it's your devotion to your duty that is sagging!
I hear Thief Handsome is playing you for the fool every chance he gets.
COOL
Sagging?! Aaaah!! Oh, my God, no! No, no, no! I can't be!
My name is Umeko. It's a pleasure to meet you.
Where?! My eyes? My mouth?
Besides keeping an eye on you, I will also be assisting you with your regular detective work.
I have been ordered by my superiors to ensure you don't become too friendly with the wrong element
Hmm.

Um... how 'bout... "a dress-wearing monkey impression"?... No, no, no! Umeko's human!
Saying "Hi, Mom!" and giving her a hug is probably a ... Yeah, really b...
"Cheerful but klutzy"? No... Mari-chan just did that one. Duh.
mutter mutter
But who is she? What do they mean by "character"? I'm lost...!
She's very aware of her own imposing presence.
The "shrew" character— it's a fresh approach.
Not bad at all
UTTERLY HOPELESS
So Umeko won't worry about the finer nuances of character later—
Listen up. No matter how much you twist your amateur brain, you won't be able to act like those two girls can
Yo.
bonk
Ow!

Mari Yagi adored Momoko and worked hard to become her hero's disciple.
Sarika Kurotani was ordered by her superiors to watch Momoko, so she grudgingly accompanies the idol and nit-picks her every move.
And Tamako Momono...? What's her motivation?

What's her reason for being by Momoko's side?
Okay, time's up!
Hey. It's been a while.
Yes.

I never would've guessed you'd try out for this part, too.
Figured you'd be hot enough for studios to create roles for you these days.
Sorry, but I have no intention of losing to little wannabe there.
She's terribly cute, though. ♡
You're a mess
You're both positively covered in scratches
Did something happen?
Yeah!
Mean girls looking for cheap payback.
How she used to be...
So, to protect her, you dived in and took the brunt of the damage?
You haven't changed much, I see.

Look!
I think they're about to start.
Hm?
Hm? What's wrong?
But... why?
...is going to stand and fight with the popular idol Momoko.
Tamako Momono...
What the heck?
She's totally frozen!
?

If I beat you...
...then...

...will I become famous?
The heroine I watched and adored...
.. she was beautiful and brave and strong and always cheerful.

Ah-ha! You think you can out-fight me, is that it? Ambitious!
I'll warn you right now, I'm no pushover--
She's my...
--yikes !!
Whoa!
HAH!
HOO!
WAH!
What the heck?!

What is this? "Idol Smackdown"?!
Miss Amateur certainly has guts, I'll give her that!
This is just an act, right?
Because it looks like those two are duking it out for real!
Ah!!

What?!
Look! Thief Handsome!
Made you look. ♡
Any fame is better than none at all I'm not worried
Even if I didn't win.
Truth be told
You need to grow up another hundred years— before I can think beating And it I make famous, dear and be famous
No fair...
That move was so Momoko..

.....
...I'm here because I really love you. A lot.
I always thought that if someday...
...I could work with you, then maybe I...I...
What's your name, dear?

Tamako.
Brave!
Trying hard not to cry
Great punch line, girl!
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

All right, everyone, that's a wrap!
We'll notify your agencies as soon as we've cast our Umeko!
Your lack of talent was your doom, kiddo.
ACK !!!!
.....
Has no words to defend herself...

TELL HIM I'M NOT HERE!!!!
Oh, yeah! Tamako-chan?
Kanji-kun is waiting for you at the entrance.
Is he her boy-friend?
WAAAAH!
Waah! Waah!

Tamako's probably putting herself up.

She wanted
Why don't I make pork chops for dinner, then?
She wanted me to tell you...
..."I'm not here."
What the hell does that little monkey think she's pulling?
Kanai-kun.
I understand wanting to take care of your agency's people...
...but don't go overboard, okay?

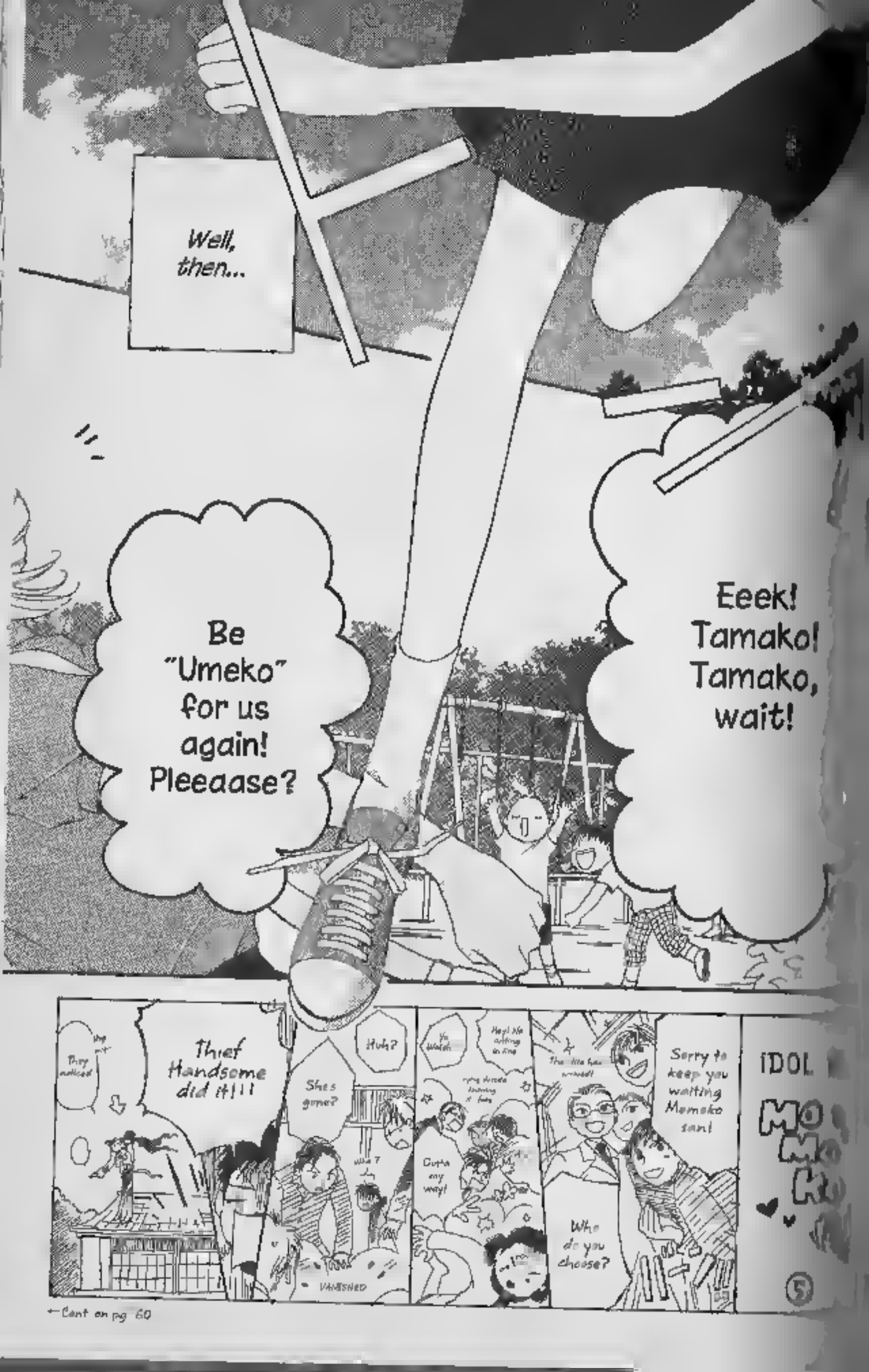
If you do, you'll end up chasing her away...
...just like you did with me.
Just at that moment...

Hmmm...
Well, gentlemen, what are we going to do?
All three finalists gave us three completely different options
1st P.T. Audition
Judging Audition Result
She goes from a hissing wildcat to an adorable, blushing maiden in a heartbeat.
Yeah! When she got all pink in the cheeks and said, "I really love you", in that cute voice, I was feeling a little over-stimulated.
Well, we could totally play up that angle on the air.
No.
Both Mari Yagi and Sarika Kurotani displayed a reasonable level of talent..
Whereas Tamako Momono...
Well...

We can't use this girl.
All at once, several things in several places went into motion
...but I had no idea that any of it was coming my way.
I was too wrapped up.
Geez louise! Blow your nose!
Too pathetic →
I'm gonna ditch you Seriously
Serika-chan, you're so nice!
I like you! ♡

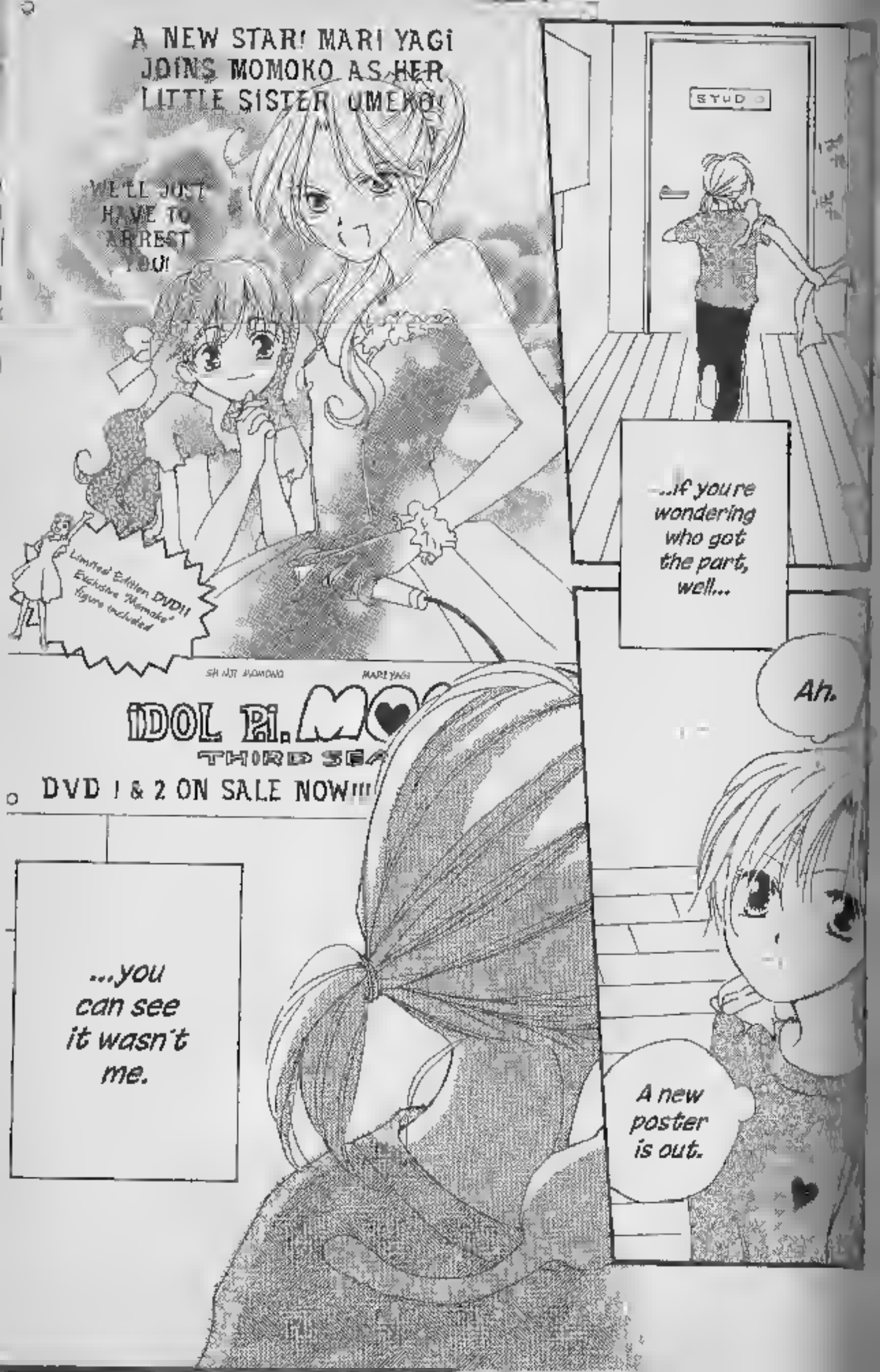
Step14
Pearl pink

HAVEN
LOVE


Well, then...
Be "Umeko" for us again! Pleeaase?
Eeek! Tamako! Tamako, wait!
They noticed
Thief Handsome did it!!!
Huh?
She's gone?
VANISHED
Hey! No cutting in line
Outta my way!
Sorry to keep you waiting Momoko san!
Who do you choose?
IDOL
MOMOKO
5

←Cont on pg 60

Sorry, I can't!
Later, okay?
I'm home!
ただいま
ただいま
Several months have passed..
..since I went out for that audition.
So...


A NEW STAR! MARI YAGI JOINS MOMOKO AS HER LITTLE SISTER UMEKO!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO ARREST YOU!
Limited Edition DVD!! Exclusive 'Momoko' figure included
SHINJI AOMORI
MARI YAGI
IDOL Pi.MO
THIRD SEA
DVD 1 & 2 ON SALE NOW!!!
...you can see it wasn't me.
...if you're wondering who got the part, well...
Ah.
A new poster is out.

Mari Yagi revitalized the show with her klutzy take on the traditional partner role. She's a charming and funny Umeko.
It's been half of the TV season, and the ratings are still up, if not even still climbing.
Half a season 3 month
I have to admit, it is pretty fun to watch.
I'm hooked
It's over, so no sense being upset.
Nothing to be done, really.

ARGH!

I don't have any idea what to write!

Well that's not exactly true. I did have some interesting things happen lately, but some of them aren't things you'd relate in polite company, and others are related to some really old time fan mania. I don't know if it's okay to write about them here or not!

(Stuff about constipation, fan mania for the writer Yasuyuki Okamura, "When I was drunk" stories.)

Why don't I just share the bare bones details, then.

The constipation was so bad I almost called an ambulance.

My hands were shaking so much I could barely open the [illegible] bottle.

[illegible] To skip to stuff [illegible] Okamura-sensei

The when-I-was-drunk story: I had been invited to go out drinking with several of the higher-ups in the editorial department and I got just drunk enough that my speech was starting to slur when somebody asked me what manga I read when I was in high school. My answer:

Reiko Shimizu's Tsuchi no Ko

Noooo! That's so wrong!!

I'm so embarrassed!

The correct answer is Tsuki no Ko Moonchild. Argh.

I lost, pure and simple.

krak
OWWIE!!!
I've gotta try even harder from now on!!
Right!
It takes 99% effort to make 1% of talent bloom.
Raizo!!
STUDIO

Tamaka-chan, I appreciate you training with us and all, but we can only help you with dancing and singing.
If you want to get parts in commercials and stuff you need an acting coach.
Yeah, I know But Dog Run doesn't have an acting coach.
Raizo!
OW!!! OW!!! OW!!! OW!!!
GAAAAAH!
Yukiya
Damn, I'm the coolest!
Oh, yeah.
It's not like Rain ever needed one.
You do now.

What?
Rain got a job offer this morning.
A TV movie starring the three of you.
...but apparently, Iwao Majima wrote a superhero movie (known as "sentai"), and he's never seen anyone but Rain in the roles.
It's a little ways off. It would air end of this year or early next...
Awesome! Sounds like a blast!

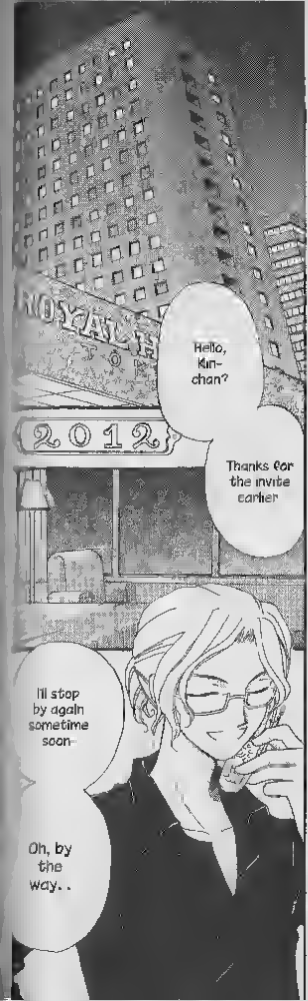
. I can't do that!! I just can't!!
You know how bad I get when I have to talk on camera! There's no way I could ever act in front of all those millions of people! None!!
Suck it up. I've accepted the offer.
Besides, your little sister loves those shows. Let her see you save the world.
Mashima-san is in the office now, so you boys go up and introduce yourselves.
No...
Good
That's great news, guys!
Congrats!

Ack! Tamako-chan, you're scaring me!
Give 'em hell!
GREEN-EYED
MONSTER
Our heroine's schedule since Spring VII
Be patient!
Hey
Kan-chan, what about work for me?
No. I wish it were that.
I wish I had something to choose from. No one will touch her.
Kanai-kun
—are you being too choosy with her?

It's starting to feel like a conspiracy, if you ask me.
Wao-wao! Good to see you! ♡
You look well, Kin-chan.
No, thank you for taking care of our newbie this spring.
You mean Tanaka Mumeno? So new I thought she was right out of the womb!
Ha! Good one!

Still, I've never known you to back away from a challenge, Wan-wan.
I would think a writer of your caliber could find the perfect role for her.
I know I don't have any experience, but how am I ever supposed to get any if I can't get any parts?
I'm not even making it past the application stage of auditions anymore.
Him?
Him!

THUD
Oh, dear. Did a bird just drop one on my car?
Excuse me
Do you have any extra work lying around that I could have?


2012.
Hello, Kin-chan?
Thanks for the invite earlier
I'll stop by again sometime soon-
Oh, by the way. .

?!!
I don't mind if the role has no lines.
Even the tiniest part is fine
Get off! Off, off, off!!

Listen honey if this kind of trick ever got anybody a job showbiz would be overrun with no-talent losers.
Life isn't as simple as you think Miss Amateur.
Then what can I to do to get a job?!
I'm only 14
your pet monkey has attached herself to my leg Be a dear and come retrieve her, won't you?
Bye!
Grr!
Hmm. Well, in your present situation...
ぎ, ちょ～
This will satisfy my sadism! ♡
My my Miss Naughty
...but you're still jailbait—so let's skip that idea, shall we?
...I'd consider giving you a big part here with me...

Huh?
Strip for me!
Ribbit?
What?! She's negotiating with that creepy writer herself?!
Stupid monkey!
Yep! So go get her before Wao-wao has his fun.
He's notorious for his mean Jokes, so hurry!

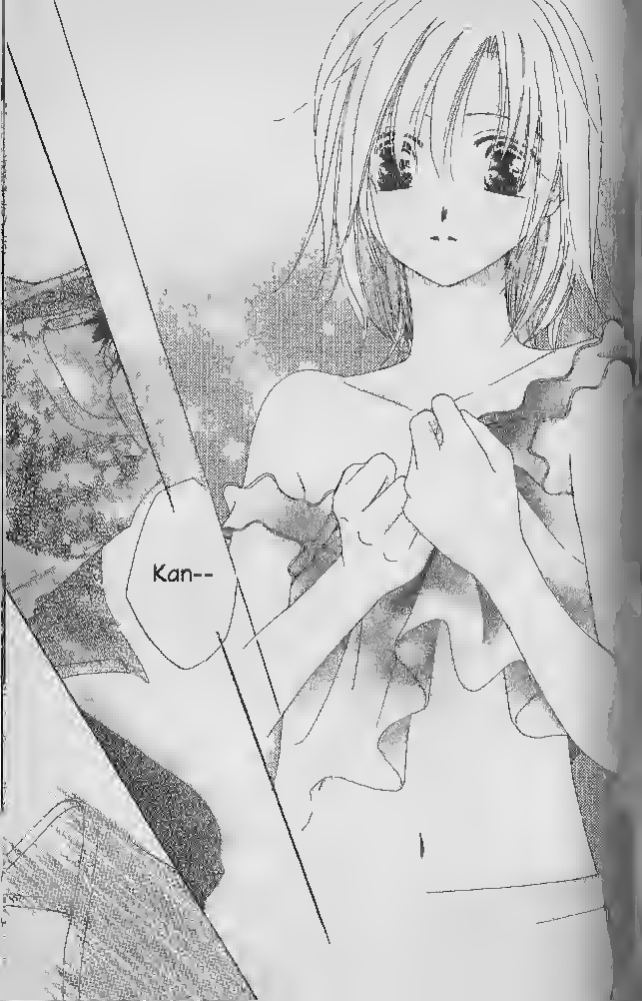
I hear he digs casting couch pay-to-play pranks. He's hilarious!
He's in a hotel too
Ami Tamako-chan is so gullible she'll buy anything he says.
But it's just a joke!
.....
Hmm. I think we freaked him out.
"Which one"? Which one what?
I wonder which one he's more concerned about.
Is he worried for "Tamako-chan the actress"...

I won't be so boorish as to insist on full frontal. I'll let you choose.
Take off your shirt, and you can be an extra.
Strip to your undies and you'll get a couple of lines.
Take it all the way, and your name's on the poster.
Of course...
...or "Tamako-chan the girl"?

...I'm only saying this because I know you don't have the guts.
Is this what it takes?
I've worked so hard, gone through so much disappointment...
...for this?
Is this the only way I'll ever be able to stand amongst the stars?
Heh.

I'm just tired of being told I don't have what it takes to do things!
You can keep your stupid job, I don't want anything from you!
Ha ha ha! I'm just kidding, dear. I would never--
Huh?
What th--?
Hey!
Don't get the wrong idea...

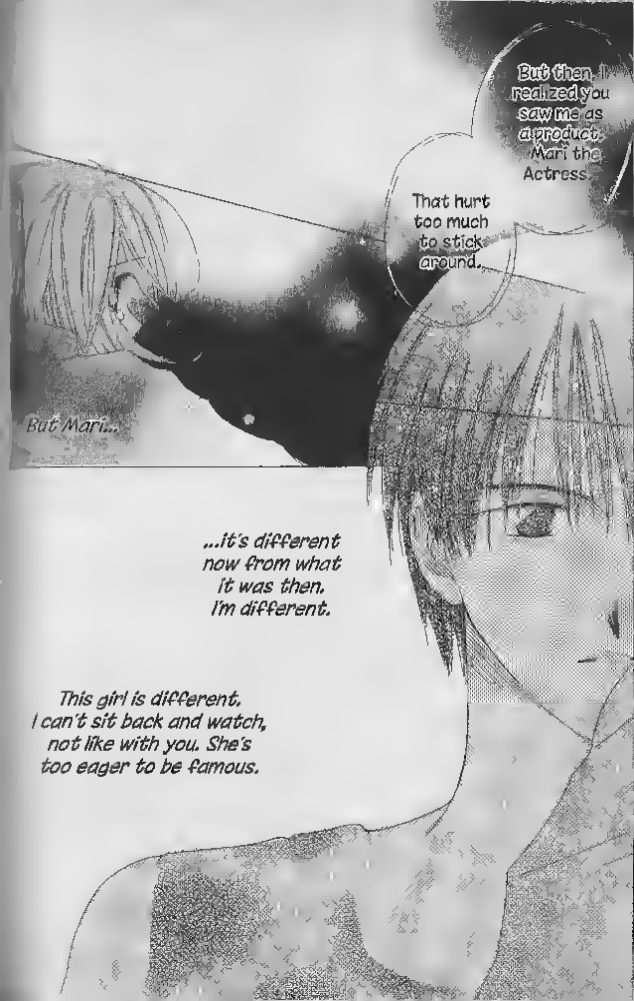
ROOM SERVICE !!!
Grabbed a random nearby tray


Kan--

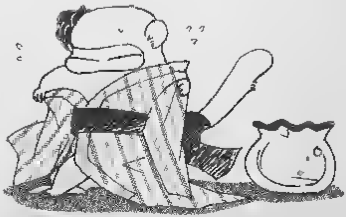
Hi yo
Well, that was unexpected.
She sure has a lovely way of emoting.
I think I was right to make them wait so long.

Kan chi--
Shut your mouth.
Eep
.....
I'm...I'm sorry.
sniffle
"Kanji-kun..."

Nope! I left because I fell in love with you.
Uh... because a bigger agency gets you more high-profile work more often?
Painfully true
"...do you know why I decided to leave Dog Run?"
Oh
Don't worry.
Huh?!
You were always so nice to me, smiling at everything I did.
You never hesitated to protect me, even if you got hurt in the process.
How could I not fall for you?
Mm... kay.
I'm not in love with you anymore.
I'm currently dating an older man. Shhhh!


But then I realized you saw me as a product. Mari the Actress.
That hurt too much to stick around.
But Mari...
...it's different now from what it was then. I'm different.
This girl is different. I can't sit back and watch, not like with you. She's too eager to be famous.

Maybe I'm even more of a worrywart now than I was then. Or...
It's a bit farther to home. You want to get something on the way?
No.
Your cooking's better.
...I'm hungry.
...is it because it's about her in particular?
Huh? Bill?
What bill?
Kin-chan? Hi, dear.
I'll send you the bill, 'kay? Bye!



Pearl Pink
Step15

A few days after the near-striptease/ door-busting excitement...
Huh?!

IDOL PI
MOMOKO
⑥
What you're here? No warning note?
Heh
Besides a little force is necessary when stealing a heart
I was feeling a little anxious
MOMOKO-SAN !!!!
I an- do
My my
Heh [illegible] is his [illegible] I [illegible] more reason to miss you.
Not good!
Who is he? A love triangle between Momoko Honda and Thief Handsome?

Yeeeee [illegible] aren't many gags this time. Guess I go to [illegible] (Tomoko)

Guard silence
Let me repeat myself.
...the screenwriter Iwao Mashima visited the Inui residence and said:
Have you ever considered letting Tamako-san act in a made-for-TV drama?

Year-end TV Special
Idol Sentai
STAR RAIN
(tentative)
1
Tamako Momono.
Her blockbuster TV debut is finally on the horizon!
Main Cast: Rain
Raizo Hishikawa
Hisame Arai
Yukiya Edajima
Seiten TV
You mean it?!
Awesome
Cool!
For real?!
Ha ha ha ha
I'm the one who stopped everyone from giving you work. I wanted you first.
Thank you so very mu—
I work in mysterious ways
I know this seems awfully sudden, dearie, but I've had my eye on you for some time.
.....
Ah
Ah

Thanks

Last volume I kinda let it slip that I'd hurt my hand. Soon after I started getting lots of fan mail full of get well wishes. Thank you so much. My hand's still better now! For all you aspiring manga artists out there, a piece of advice: take good care of your drawing hand. Apparently stress can build up over time and it's easier to get hurt than you'd think.

Lots of stretching and massages.

Please send thoughts and comments to:

Pearl Pink Mail
c/o TOKYOPOP
5900 Wilshire
Blvd. Suite #2000
Los Angeles,
CA 90036

Recently I found out somebody made an Image CD for this manga:

I can hardly believe it! I didn't know there were Image CDs for manga. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Mar. Yagi

See you next volume.

Thank you... sir.
You!!! so YOU'RE THE
DIRTY
PETTEN
JERK
WHO IS
THIS I
ME!
I know, dear, but really...
It's the debut of your precious princess! Surely you agree it should be a grand affair.
Besides, this role is absolutely perfect for her! ♡
She's one of the most important characters in the whole show.
She is--

...the evil mastermind Dark Stars right-hand henchwoman, Black Hurricane!!
悪役
VILLIAN
...A... a...

Are you insane?! She can't be a bad guy!!
Why not, Kanâ? I want to give it a try!
The image I've always had for you is more.. uh-..it's hard to describe.. um ..You know those dresses I always put on you? Kind of like that. Frilly and cute and cheery and-, uh-like...like.
Tamako, if you're aiming to be a "living-room favorite," there's absolutely no way you can debut as a villain! Period!
Umm
But she has an evil looking face
Huh?

Aah!
I know! Like Mari Yagi!
IMAGE COMPLETE
PAN-GO!
Idol actress who left Dog Run three years ago
Yes!! Exactly! Exactly like her! She's my ideal wom--
GASP!
...all the dresses and ribbons and makeup...it's all been to remake me as Mari-chan?
What-, what are you saying. ?
T-Tama—
That everything you've done for me to me..
Cutesy
Frilly
N-no! Tamako, I--
Uh, no!

If you want to make a Mari clone, you'd better pick someone else, buster.
Finally.
Did you see that?! You're golden as a villain, honey!
Ah!
They always promised to see each other's dreams come true. and these are the first steps.
Yep. This will put Kanji-kun's potential as the Dog Run CEO to the test.
Let's hit the movies.
Wanna go get a drink?
Ah, well.
This could be good for everyone.

Sadly...
...they aren't walking in the same direction.
Oh, dear me..
Confirming that gossip
Not a doubt
The mood around here is very strange.
Huh? Mom!
Ooh, you're wearing a yukata!
You look so pretty!
Know why? There's going to be a fireworks festival nearby!

A yukata seemed perfect!
Ooooh! ♡
And if I'm going to wear one, I thought it'd be neat if you wore one, too. So, I brought you a couple!
Which one do you like?
Okay, let's get you ready to party! ♡
NOOOO! ! You can't dress her up like a devil! ! Wear the white one with the cute red flowers! !
Henta Switch ON!
Calm down, Papa. She's a big girl now.
Cool it. Cool !
But...the theme is "Little Devil."
I'll let you pick, Mom.
?!!
Right-o!

Don't you realize that's exactly the attitude that got her mad at you in the first place?
Hmph
Tennessee room.
Another weekend in June
Wao-chi told me everything
So, Kanji-kun's really upset about you playing a villainess, is he?
Hee hee
Yeah.
Um... Mom?
Hm?
It's supposed to be a huge Mom
It's supposed to be
Umm..
Were Kan-chan and Mari-chan... um...well... you know, were they... uh..
mumble mumble

What?!
That's why!
But he was in jr. high!
It's where he learned his skills.
At the time, Kanji-kun was rather close to a 22-year-old makeup artist, actually. ♡
Hm
I don't think anything ever happened there, no.
I think Mari-chan just happened to be everything Kanji-kun expected an actress to be.
He always took such very good care of her.

I present to you "Summer's Lil' Demon"! ♡
TA-DAAA !!
So... um...
...what do you think, Raizo?
Will you allow me to escort you to the fireworks festival?
Awesome! Then let's go!!
Okay?
Oh!!
Ack
Yes!

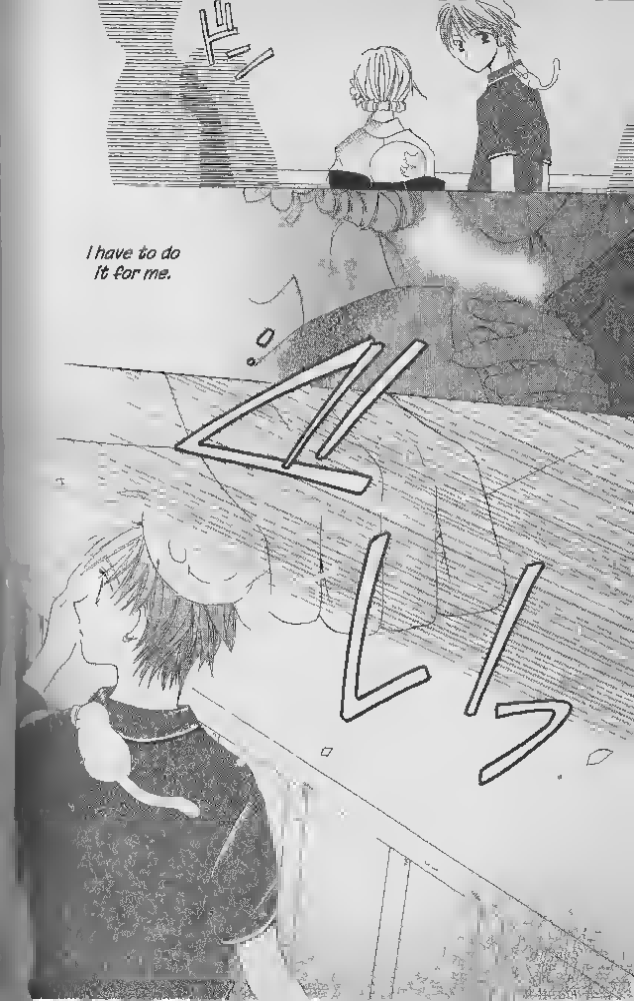
Look!
Isn't she adorable?
!
Take me back to snacks in the greenhouse
Hey, Kanji!
.....
R--

Raizo, let's go!!
Kanji-kun!!
.....
Hurry up and bring the beer, please! ♡
Coming!
He's still here.
On the roof
Yay! Beer!
Yes, honey?
Nothing—
I do have one question
Why did you decide to cast Tamako as a bad guy?

Why do you want to know?
Well, umm...
I guess it's because my image of her is biased.
If I missed something about her, a depth I didn't fathom, I'd like to know about it.
If you're that open minded, dear, I wouldn't worry about it
Eventually, you'll see everything quite clearly.
There's no rush, you're still young. You have plenty of time.
Tamako-chan!

This is my treat to you! ♡
There!
Yay!
The sweet one!
In celebration of your upcoming debut!
Which do you want, salty-stuff-on-a-stick or sweet-stuff-on-a-stick?
TA-DA!
GYU-KUSH!
RINGO AME
Why am I still scared?
What is there for me to be afraid of?

I've been wanting to prove myself and establish my own worth...
Tama--
...even though I can never transform myself into Kan-chan's "perfect pearl."


I have to do it for me.

Huff!
.....
Tamako, Im sorry, I--
That's the most important value system for anything, right?

I'm sorry, too, Kan-chan.
Huh? But, I--
I know how sucky I am!!
I know I could never be like Mari Yagi in a million zillion years!
WAAAH!
But I wanna try! I wanna try and get better!
I'm sorry, Kan-chan! I'm sorry I'm so awful!!

Please, Kan-chan, don't try to see anybody else in me!
Please!
If I could, I'd ask him...
Just watch me!
Find something good in me that's me! Please!
...to try to fall in love with me. Instead, I'll just stop him from abandoning me.

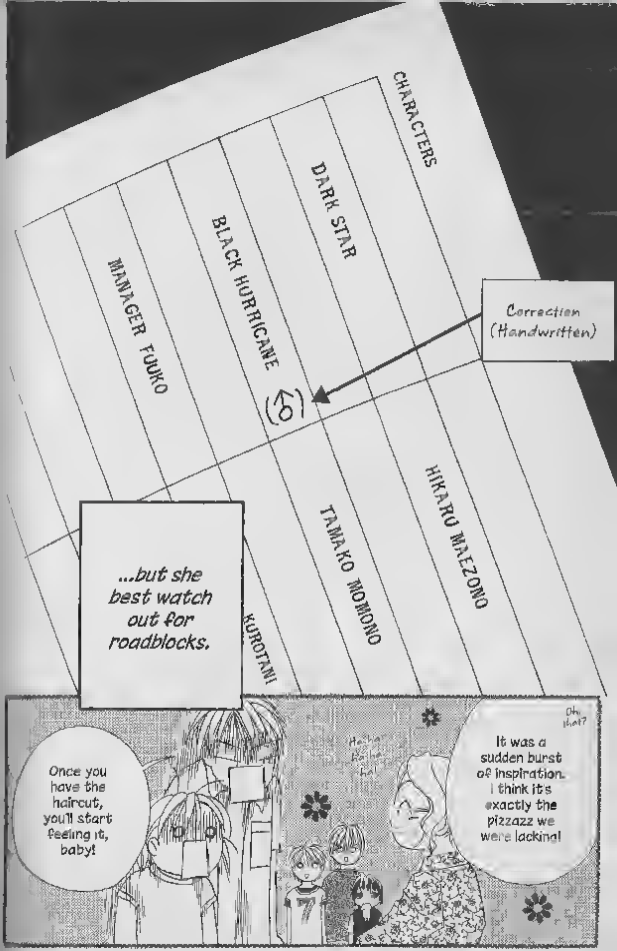
I will. I promise.

Soft breath in her ear...
...a strong shoulder for her chin.
A buried love latches on to the opportunity for a dream.
That yukata looks fabulous on you
.....
Best speak up
A warm, fuzzy...
Th thanks
It's a simple moment enjoyed simply.

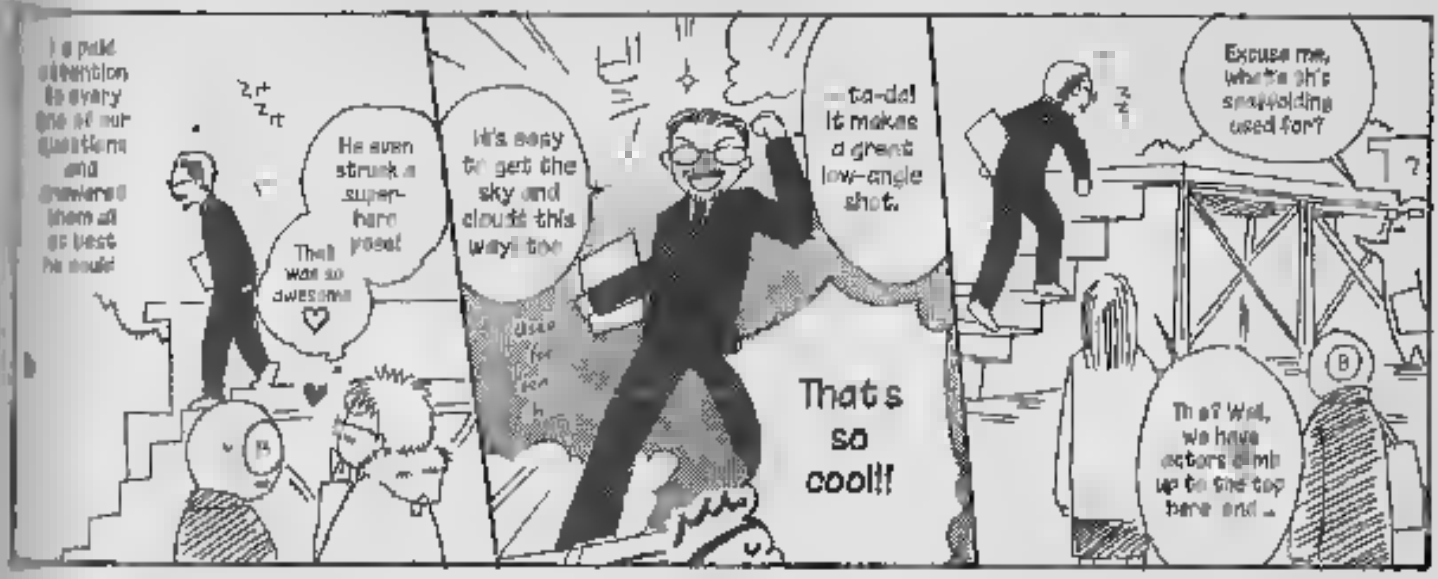
...wonderful and pleasant...
...yet painfully short dream.
MEETING ROOM B
Yen and TV Special Idol Sentai
STAR TRAIN
Staff / Cast Preliminary Meeting

My son
Wow, You look alike
Serika-chan!
How are you doing?! How have you been?! What happened?!
Squeeal!
Whoa! Down girl!
Adores Serika
You said you'd get fired if you didn't get the Umeko part, right? So, what are you--
Yeah, my agent dropped me!
Long time no see.
Hmm? Serika-san, where are you?
This guy signed me up at his agency right away, so it's all fine
A wind up toy?
Long Lasting [illegible] Productions President Manager Kenzaburo Uematsu (80)

A dude?
Nah. I'll be fine -
Are you nervous about playing a dude?
I'll be playing Fuuko, manager for the pop group. It's not nearly as meaty as your role
Really? That's great
Haven't you read the latest script?
Didn't you know?
Huh?!
Wha --?!
Tamako Momono is on the road to stardom...
Here. See?
ばん!


CHARACTERS
DARK STAR
BLACK HURRICANE
MANAGER FUUKO
(6)
Correction
(Handwritten)
HIKARU MAEZONO
TAMAKO MOMONO
KUROTANI
...but she best watch out for roadblocks.
Once you have the haircut, you'll start feeling it, baby!
Hachoo
It was a sudden burst of inspiration. I think it's exactly the pizzazz we were lacking!
Oh, that?

MecaSite
COMICS VERSION!!
東映
だっぱーん
No no It's okay
We're so sor Y
We got so lost we were late to our rendezvous.
Ack! Where a e we?!
Tea's Tokyo branch is up in the northwest parts of the city. The studio is really old and full of history
It's also huge!
Hello, everyone! Tanaka here.
A little while ago I got a chance to go to Toei Studios to do some research.
CRANE
Our guide was the Dean of the Academy Mr Tsutsubayoshi. He was every bit the gentleman.
Well then why don't we take a quick look around?
Ooooh!
Usually we don't show this on tours.
But we'll make an exception.
Besides being utterly gigantic, Toei's Tokyo branch also has the Toei Academy a sort of trade school for actors and film students. Every now and again Toei Academy has tours for its new students, and we got permission to tag along. Thank you!!
Toei Academy
We're sorry! We're sorry!


I paid attention to every one of our questions and answered them all as best he could
Zzz
Zzz
He even struck a super-hero pose!
That was so awesome
It's easy to get the sky and clouds this way, too
ta-da! It makes a great low-angle shot.
That's so cool!!
Excuse me, what's oh's scaffolding used for?
That? Well, we have actors climb up to the top here and...

What?!
Oh those are two of the kids who will be acting in "Battle Royale 2."
they were a y to do.
Hello!
Hello!
A pair of teenagers jogging in camo outfits
We're ing on special effects shots for a show
It looked like there were a couple of shows filming while we were tak ng the tour, too
They're hanging the bad guy?!

I won't give up
Students are anywhere from 12 to 30 years old. If you've ever thought about pursuing a career in show business, why not give this place a shot?
TOEI ACADEMY
Toei Tokyo Studios
2-34-5 Higashi Ohsen
Renba-ku, Tokyo-to
JAPAN
178-8666
Practicing like it was the real thing
After our tour of the grounds we got to listen in on some classes doing script-readings.
First-year students get training in not only acting, singing and dancing but also in me dubbing and fight scenes! Isn't that awesome?
Toei sure knows what it's do ng! Every teacher there is also a working professional n the field they teach!

A few new characters have stepped into the limelight this volume. Serika-chan was originally supposed to be a selfish, stuck-up idol who was in love with Kanji, and Mari was supposed to be an utter klutz on the verge of getting fired. As you can see, they both ended up being almost the exact opposite. Still, there weren't that many girls for me to draw in this manga before, so I'm happy.

They'll be the two girls who give our dense, slowpoke main characters a push in the right direction. At least, they should, I think. Well, I'm really hoping they will! Please?

Oh, and when I draw Wao-wao.

I just wanted to draw these two in some fancy clothes

THANKS!

Mr. Yamamoto
Koyasu Uchida
Sano
Midori Ono
Toei Academy
My boss
Everyone who supported me.
Everyone who's reading this manga (you!)
Thank you so very much, everyone!!!

Well, that's all for this volume!

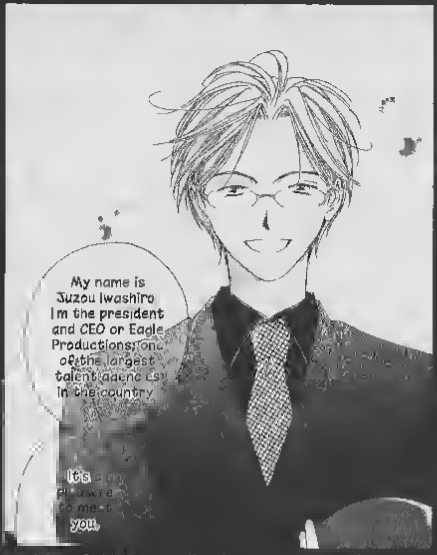
Meca Tanaka

Kanbe's Past
Read this way
I'm a monkey
Hello everyone I'm Kantarobadomune
I used to be a wild monkey
But then years ago I met Tanaka Momino.
<3years ago>>
That day...
HISS
...Tanaka-san became my boss
Kanbe's Thoughts
Tanaka-san didn't try to train me or force me to do anything
I pretty much live exactly how I want.
Hey Kanbe
I used to play with Kanbe-san a lot...
...but he's gotten really busy and I've been kind of lonely without him.
Kanbe is the human Tanaka-san crushes on and he makes really good food...
But...
YO...
I wonder if he'll ever going to call me by my name?
Here's a banana
...here's your lunch, monkey

Mecasite Comics Version / End

In Volume 4

...who's this mysterious man?!


My name is Juzou Iwashiro I'm the president and CEO of Eagle Productions, one of the largest talent agencies in the country
It's a pleasure to meet you.

TAMAKO's on her way to success...

Love and Fame fight it out on the stage in the next and final volume of...

pearl pink

Our little heroine's passed the gauntlet of auditions and been given the chance to star (as a villain) in a new television drama, and this is where the real drama begins! Explosions, fighting...and a kissing scene? With Tamako growing closer to Kanji everyday, will she put her career or relationship first? As the curtains come to a close, will the audience get a happy ending...?

Manga
Romance/Comedy
US $9.99
CAN $12.50

Tamako Momono finally has her big break—but it comes in the shadow of her superstar mother Shinju Momono on the hit TV show Idol *P.I. Momoko*. The audition is divided into three stages, and only one girl out of thirty will have a chance at super-stardom. Can Tamako overcome the venomous hatred from the other girls—and balance her life with Kanji—while reaching for the stars?!

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TEEN AGE 13+

ROMANCE